DH
DECCAN HERALD
The Power of Good

US proposes new H-1B visa process

Trump administration favours higher-skilled, better-paid workers

Page 12

Asia Cup: Force with dominant India

Men in Blue take on Bangladesh today

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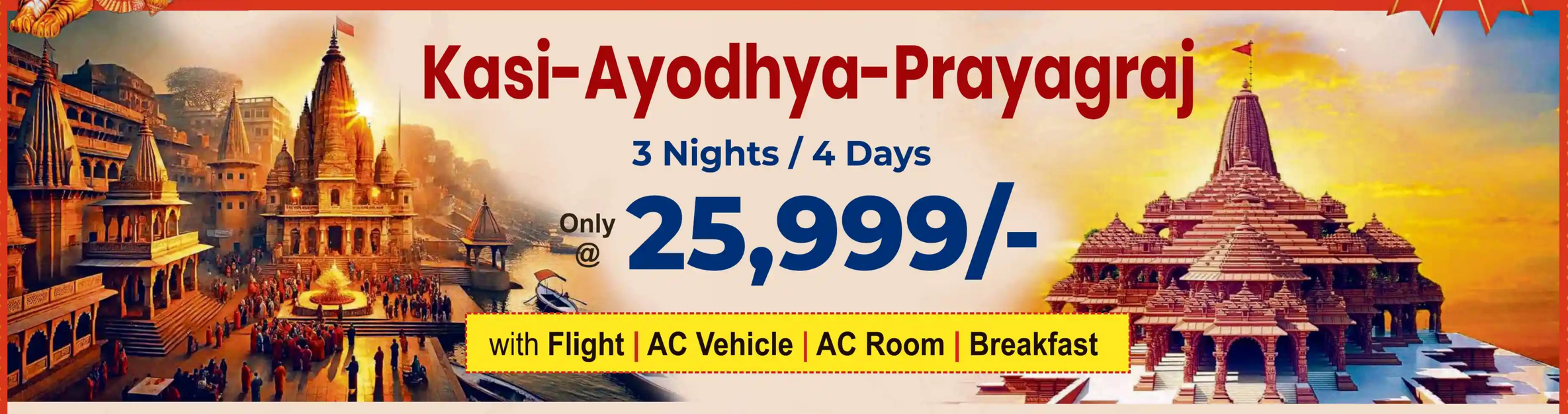

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DECCAN HERALD

The Power of Good

Legendary 'Dickie' Bird dies at 92

Englishman was a much-liked umpire

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Business

S&P retains India's GDP growth projection at 6.5%

P.13

Nation

Assam bids farewell to Zubeen Garg with songs, gun salute

P.11

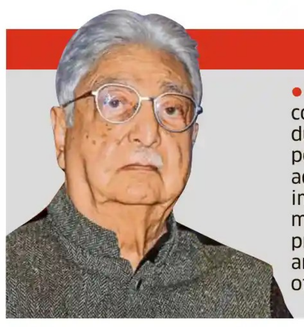
State

Crowd control bill: House panel formed P.3

Nation

SC seeks cheque bounce status reports P.10

As congestion worsens, CM writes to Wipro



SIDDU SUGGESTIONS

- Traffic congestion during peak hours adversely impacts mobility, productivity and quality of urban life
- Consider allowing limited vehicular movement through the Wipro campus as part of mutually agreed terms

- Measure could reduce congestion on adjoining ORR stretches by nearly 30% during peak office hours

Iblur Junction

Requests Premji to consider opening gates for traffic

NAVEEN MENEZES
BENGALURU, DHNS

Chief Minister Siddaramaiah has written to Wipro's founder-chairman Azim Premji with a request to allow public vehicles through his tech park on Sarjapur Road, as he looks to address Bengaluru's worsening traffic crisis that has exasperated tech firms and made national headlines.

The outreach comes days after a miffed DK Shivakumar, the Deputy CM, asked IT companies not to blackmail the government after a logistics firm said it was moving out of Outer Ring Road due to crippling traffic congestion.

In a letter dated September 19, Siddaramaiah appreciated Wipro's continued contribution to Karnataka's IT ecosystem and socio-economic development and went on to highlight mobility challenges.

"One of the key challenges currently facing Bengaluru, particularly along the outer ring road (ORR) at Iblur junction, is severe traffic congestion during peak hours, which adversely impacts mobility, productivity, and the quality of urban life," the CM wrote.

He suggested the company consider the possibility of allowing limited vehicular movement through the Wipro campus as part of mutually agreed terms and security considerations.

According to preliminary assessments, Siddaramaiah said, such a measure could reduce congestion on adjoining stretches of the ORR by nearly 30% during peak office hours.

"Your support in this matter will go a long way in easing traffic bottlenecks, enhancing commuter experience and contributing to a more efficient and livable Bengaluru," he said and hoped the company will engage with officials.

The private access was a suggestion first proposed by the traffic police to decongest Sarjapur road, Iblur junction and the ORR. Such is the severity of congestion that one can see vehicles queuing up for 3 to 4 km on Sarjapur Road almost on a daily basis. If Wipro opens its gate, vehicles can head towards Bellandur bypassing Iblur junction, thereby reducing travel length by about 5 km.

▸ Wipro, Page 5

Bengaluru must not settle for mediocrity, Edit Page 8

Hybrid work option ends in Oct; ORR jams to rise 15%

ASRA MAVAD
BENGALURU, DHNS

Starting October, traffic on the Outer Ring Road (ORR) is likely to increase by at least 10 to 15%, as multiple private companies are pulling back work-from-home (WFH) and other hybrid working options.

The ORR, which has recently been in the spotlight for its worsening traffic woes, is home to 26 major tech parks which employ over eight lakh professionals. So far, companies have adopted the hybrid working model, where employees are required to work from the office for anywhere between one and three days a week. As a result, Wednesdays and Thursdays see the highest traffic congestion.

Speaking about the plans to tackle the increasing traffic on ORR, M A Saleem, Director General and Inspector General of Police and also an expert of traffic management, told *DH*, "If the workforce is back at the offices on ORR, then we are expecting a 10 to 15% increase in vehicular movement. But we are hopeful that rains will stop by mid-October and pothole work on the ORR stretch will also be done by then. We urge companies on the stretch to encourage employees to opt for public transport."

Joint Commissioner of Police (Traffic), Kartik Reddy, said, "Our advice to companies is to opt for staggered timings. Some companies can opt for early work hours to avoid ending the workday during peak hours."

BMTC is kicking off an initiative to improve public transport adoption along the tech corridor. "To encourage more people to use buses, we will now take buses into tech parks. Earlier, they would stop near the entrance. We have already deployed two feeder buses for the Wipro campus and plan to launch seven more," BMTC managing director Ramachandran R told *DH*.

▸ ORR, Page 5

Trump at UN: China, India 'primary funders' of Ukraine war

UNITED NATIONS, PTI: China and India are the "primary funders" of the Ukraine war by continuing to purchase Russian oil, US President Donald Trump said on Tuesday in his address to the UN General Assembly.

The Trump administration has imposed an additional 25% tariff on New Delhi as a penalty for its purchases of Russian oil, taking the total levies imposed on India by the US to 50%, among the highest in the world.

"China and India are the primary funders of the ongoing war by continuing to purchase Russian oil," Trump said in his over an hour-long address at the General Debate of the 80th session of the UN General Assembly.

India has called the tariffs imposed by the US "unjustified and unreasonable".

India has said that, like any major economy, it will take all necessary measures to safeguard its national interests and economic security. Trump once again said he stopped the conflict between India and Pakistan.

▸ Trump, Page 5

10 killed as record rain lashes Kolkata

Most victims electrocuted; flight, train services hit

ANIRBAN BHAUMIK
KOLKATA, DHNS

Torrential overnight rain and floods left 10 people dead in Kolkata on Tuesday with waterlogging reported not only in low-lying areas but also in slightly elevated neighbourhoods, dampening the Durga Puja festive spirit.

With water submerging railway tracks, several trains were either diverted, delayed or cancelled.

At least 30 arrivals and departures at the Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose International Airport were cancelled not only because parts of the apron and runways were inundated but also because several crew members and ground staff could not reach the airport.

Over 90 flights to and from the city were delayed. The services of the Kolkata Metro were also disrupted.

▸ Rain, Page 5

8 killed in Marathwada

The generally arid Marathwada region in Maharashtra received unprecedented rains in the last four days, leaving at least eight persons dead, marooning villages, damaging houses and flattening crops on thousands of hectares. Page 10

Buses move on a flooded road after heavy rainfall in Kolkata on Tuesday. PTI

Officials conduct the caste survey in Karwar on Tuesday. DH PHOTO

Caste census picks up pace on Day 2, but glitches persist

BENGALURU, DHNS: The Social and Educational survey picked up on Tuesday with 18,487 households being enumerated, even though various technical issues persisted. By 6 pm, 18,487 households (71,004 persons) were enumerated across the state (including days 1 and 2).

Haveri had the highest number of households enumerated (2,783), followed by Bagalkot (1,840), Belagavi and Gadag (1,826 each), Chitradurga (1,322) and Mandya (1,205). Tumakuru saw the least progress.

Though the survey is yet to start in the Greater Bengaluru Authority (GBA) region, as many as 53 households (187 persons) were enumerated in some gram panchayats coming under Bengaluru Urban.

Details on Page 4

Ward boundaries fixed for Greater Bengaluru

BENGALURU, DHNS: The four-member delimitation commission—formed earlier this month—has completed the exercise of drawing ward boundaries within the five newly carved corporations in the Greater Bengaluru Area (GBA), officials said.

The exercise is crucial for holding civic elections, pending for over five years.

Deputy Chief Minister D K Shivakumar had hinted at 500 wards, but the commission said the number has been reduced to between 300 and 400 after pressure from former councillors, who argued that smaller wards would weaken political parties and encourage independent candidates.

Details on Page 2

India to hold its biggest drone exercise in Oct

NEW DELHI, DHNS: India plans to hold its biggest military exercise next month involving drones and counter-drone systems to make air-defence systems "fully robust".

To be conducted at a base in Madhya Pradesh between Oct 6-10, Exercise Cold Start will involve all the three services, defence research establishment and industry.

"We will be testing some of our drones and counter-drone systems during this exercise, so that we can make our air defence system and counter-UAS completely robust," Air Marshal Rakesh Sinha said on Tuesday.

Details on Page 10

WINNERS ALL

Malayalam actor Mohanlal being greeted by Bollywood actor Shah Rukh Khan as fellow actor Rani Mukerji looks on during the 71st National Film Awards in New Delhi on Tuesday. PTI

HC stays rule on capping movie ticket prices

BENGALURU, DHNS: The Karnataka High Court on Tuesday stayed the state government's rule, which caps movie ticket price at Rs 200 across the state. Justice Ravi V Hosmani passed this order in a batch of petitions filed by the Multiplex Association of India and others. The court had reserved its orders on the interim prayer last week.

The petitioners challenged the September 12, 2005 notification, giving effect to the amended rules, contending that the proviso to Rule 55 (6) is ultra vires the Karnataka Cinemas Regulation Act and violates Articles 14, 19 (1) (g) of the Constitution. Page 3

Quickly

Truck with cow meat set ablaze in Belagavi

Tension prevailed at Ainapur in Kagwad taluk of the district after local residents set fire to a lorry allegedly transporting three tonnes of cow meat in the town on Monday night. Police have arrested seven people, including the suspects who were illegally transporting the meat and those who set the truck ablaze.

Details on Page 5

Festive rush: Railways to operate 12,000 special trains

To meet the festival rush during Deepavali and Chhath Puja, Railway Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw on Tuesday said that 12,000 special trains will be operated. The operation of these festival specials will begin from October 1 and continue till November 15.

Details on Page 10

Azam Khan walks out of jail after 23 months

Senior SP leader and former Lok Sabha member Azam Khan, who faces dozens of cases, including those of forgery and land encroachment, walked out of the Sitapur district jail on Tuesday after 23 months. Khan was mum on speculation that he could join the BSP.

Details on Page 12

41,146 seats left unfilled this year under KCET

Number of seats left unfilled in the various professional courses this year through Karnataka Common Entrance Test (KCET) has been drastically increased compared to previous year. The KEA has completed all the three rounds of seat allotment for engineering, Nursing, Pharmacy and Agriculture courses.

Details on Page 3

Rupee hits record low on US tariff, visa pressure

The rupee hit a record low on Tuesday, hurt by lingering concerns over the impact of steep US tariffs and a sharp jump in H-1B visa fees, though likely central bank intervention helped limit the losses. The currency slid to 88.7975 per dollar before closing at 88.7550.

Details on Page 13

Activist Thimarody externed to Raichur for 1 year

Puttur assistant commissioner Stella Varghese has issued an externment order against activist and Rashtriya Hindu Jagarana Vedike president Mahesh Shetty Thimarody from Dakshina Kannada district for one year. He has been ordered to move to Raichur during the period.

Details on Page 5

CPI (Maoist) rejects 'surrender' claims

Days after the Telangana state committee of CPI (Maoist) issued a statement, the party's Central Committee released its own version, condemning Politburo member Abhay for announcing his willingness to surrender.

Details on Page 11

INGENIOUS

Vitamin B7: How Guj duo concealed their deadly fentanyl op

SATISH JHA
AHMEDABAD, DHNS

A pharmacist and his associate, arrested by the Gujarat ATS earlier this year, had smuggled chemicals used in manufacturing the opioid fentanyl to Mexico in the name of "fish collagen peptides" and Vitamin B7, revealing India's link to the highly addictive drug.

The two managed to smuggle the chemicals at least four times, though they were intercepted by US customs; on one occasion, a consignment reportedly reached an agent in Guatemala, an ATS investigation has revealed.

In the US, fentanyl is considered the "deadliest drug threat". The synthetic opioid is reported to be 50 times stronger than heroin and 100 times more potent than morphine.

SMUGGLERS AT WORK

- Satish H Sutariya, the key partner of Surat-based pharma firms, and his associate, purchased precursor chemicals from firms used for making fentanyl
- Subsequently, they mislabelled chemicals as "fish collagen peptides" and Vitamin B7 and faked invoices for shipping purpose
- Duo shipped at least four consignments to Mexico using the same modus operandi, all of which were seized by US customs; one consignment reached Guatemala

The Gujarat ATS case is one of the few registered in India involving pharmaceutical firms smuggling fentanyl precursors. Officials said that it was one of the rare cases under narcotics where people have been booked on suspicion of smuggling.

Earlier this week, the US embassy in New Delhi revoked visas of some Indian businessmen citing their alleged involvement in trafficking fentanyl precursors.

On March 22, the US Department of Justice indicted top officials of Hyderabad-based Vasudha Pharma Chem Pvt Ltd. They were charged with "manufacturing and distributing fentanyl precursor chemicals for unlawful importation into the United States, and attempting and conspiring to do the same".

On March 18, ATS arrested Satish H Sutariya, the key partner of Surat-based firms—Athos Chemicals Pvt Ltd, Agrat Chemicals & Pharmaceuticals, and S R Chemicals & Pharmaceuticals, all based in Surat—along with his associate Yukta A Modi. A detailed chargesheet was filed recently against the duo.

They are accused of illegally procuring and exporting 1-Boc-4-piperidone (N-Boc-4-piperidone) and 4-piperidone, both precursors used in producing fentanyl, from various firms, including Vasudha Pvt Ltd, and smuggling them by misdeclaring the consignments.

▸ Vitamin B7, Page 5

Bengaluru students get to grips with slipping American dream

ASRA MAVAD & SHRADDHA AK
BENGALURU, DHNS

Panic has gripped Bengalureans studying in the US after the new H1B visa rules, with many considering a move back to India in the coming years.

US President Donald Trump announced a steep H1B visa fee hike, raising it from $2,000 to $5,000 depending on the company size, to as high as $1,00,000 for new applicants.

The hike is expected to hit career prospects, said Sachitha Hegde, 28, an engineer job-hunting in the US on an F1 visa extension. An F1 visa is a non-immigrant visa for international students.

"The job market is poor right now, and with the new rule, firms will not pay such a huge amount to hire a fresher. I have about a year; if I do not find a job, I will return to India," she told *DH*.

Recent engineering graduate Dhruv Shetty, also on an F1 visa, failed to secure an H1B earlier this year. "I work at a small startup, and I do not think they will apply next year given the new fee," he said, adding the uncertainty has pushed him to plan his return to India.

Another STEM postgraduate has begun "sending out feelers to Indian employers".

"When I know my chances in the US are slim, why beat around the bush? I am applying both here and in India, and Bengaluru firms have responded positively," he said.

Keziah Thomas, a third-year film student, said she will "give it her all" before deciding to move out of the US. "I chose the US as the job market for musicians is better here. My heart is set on working here," she said.

SPIRIT OF NAVRATRI

From green to orange, the festive spectrum shines through the vibrant display of dolls in Basavanagudi, celebrating Dasara traditions. Dasara will be celebrated on October 2.
DH PHOTO/RANJU P

Ward boundaries fixed for Greater Bengaluru

Report to be submitted to govt today, says GBA chief

NAVEEN MENEZES
BENGALURU, DHNS

The four-member delimitation commission — formed earlier this month — has completed the exercise of drawing ward boundaries within the five newly carved corporations in the Greater Bengaluru Area (GBA), officials said.

The exercise is crucial for holding civic elections, pending for over five years.

Deputy Chief Minister DK Shivakumar had hinted at 500 wards, but the commission said the number has been reduced to between 300 and 400 after pressure from former councillors, who argued that smaller wards would weaken political parties and encourage independents.

M Maheshwar Rao, Chairperson of the Commission and Chief Commissioner of GBA, told *DH* that the report is ready and will be submitted to the government on Wednesday. He, however, declined to reveal the proposed number of wards.

The commission was given 20 days for its first report and three months for the full exercise, including draft and final notifications. The Union government has directed that wards be formalised by December, ahead of the 2026 census.

A source said the number of wards kept changing at every meeting. "The Deputy Chief Minister was keen on 500 wards. Then it came down to 300, went up to 400, and now it will be somewhere around 350," the source added.

Deputy Chief Minister DK Shivakumar had hinted at 500 wards, but the commission said the number has been reduced to between 300 and 400 after pressure from former councillors, who argued that smaller wards would weaken political parties and encourage independents.

While drawing up the boundaries government guidelines required the commission to consider population, geographical size, population density, revenue potential, non-agricultural activities and employment activities, with no more than 150 wards per corporation.

As per the 2011 census, the Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike's population was 8.5 million.

Electoral rolls in 2023 put the figure at 14.4 million. Wards must be drawn based on the 2011 census, but allows for a deviation of up to 25% to ensure an even population distribution across wards.

Smaller parties such as Karnataka Rashtra Samiti, Aam Aadmi Party, and Bengaluru NavaNirmana Party had sought smaller wards to improve their chances, while the BJP, Congress, and JD(S) preferred larger wards to consolidate loyalist votes.

PRR land: BDA, farmers' meeting tomorrow

BENGALURU, DHNS: The Bangalore Development Authority (BDA) has decided to meet landowners whose property has been notified for the 74-km Bengaluru Business Corridor (BBC) project.

The meeting will be held at 11 am on Thursday in the boardroom at the BDA head office.

The meeting was scheduled at the request of farmers who raised concerns and questions about the status of the project, earlier known as the Peripheral Ring Road.

The project requires about 2,560 acres of land, but there is widespread resentment over compensation.

Farmers want the BDA to compensate them under the 2014 Land Acquisition Act, while the government has said compensation will be twice the guidance value.

2 inspectors, police staff suspended in corruption case

BENGALURU, DHNS

Bengaluru Police Commissioner Seemant Kumar Singh has suspended two inspectors and three staff over charges of extortion and dereliction of duty.

Inspector Hanumanth K Bhajantri of the Halasuru Gate police station is accused of threatening a gold businessman and extorting Rs 10 lakh. Along with him, an assistant sub-inspector, a head constable, and a constable from the same station have also been suspended.

Inspector SLR Reddy of the Koramangala police station has been suspended for dereliction of duty.

The businessman lodged a complaint with the commissioner and submitted CCTV footage as proof of the extortion.

"On the basis of a preliminary report, I have ordered their suspension," Singh told reporters.

"They come under the jurisdiction of DCP Central and DCP Southeast divisions, and a detailed departmental inquiry will take place soon," the top cop said.

Both inspectors remain under suspension pending further investigation..

Man who stabbed wife to death at bus stand surrenders

BENGALURU, DHNS: The man who fatally stabbed his wife in front of her teenage daughter at a bus stand in Sunkadakatte on Monday has surrendered to the police.

Lohitashwa

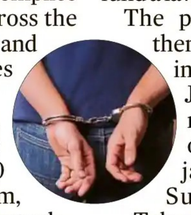
Car driver Lohitashwa, 43, turned himself in at the Kamakshipalya police station, hours after stabbing his 32-year-old wife Rekha multiple times in the chest and stomach in full public view between 11.30 am and 11.40 am.

The couple frequently quarreled after their marriage. They fought on Monday morning, after which Rekha left for the bus stand with her 13-year-old daughter. Lohitashwa followed them and started to fight again, culminating in the fatal stabbing.

The daughter is a key eyewitness in the murder, the police said.

Priest, aide held for temple thefts; police solve 13 cases

BENGALURU, DHNS: The Banashankari police have arrested a priest and his accomplice for temple thefts across the city, cracking 13 cases and recovering valuables worth Rs 14 lakh.



The suspects, 51-year-old priest Praveen Bhat with 10 theft cases against him, and 31-year-old Santosh P with two prior cases, were arrested on the night of September 3 near Gottigere. The police also seized a two-wheeler from them.

The investigation began after the president of the Siddi Mahaganapati Temple in Banashankari filed a complaint on September 3, stating that an unknown person, posing as a priest, had stolen a silver umbrella and lamp pillars from the sanctum.

During interrogation, the duo confessed to the Banashankari theft and admitted to similar crimes elsewhere in the city, saying they wanted to fund a lavish lifestyle.

The police have linked them to temple break-ins in Banashankari, Jayanagar, Kumaraswamy Layout, Girinagar, Rajarajeshwarinagar, Subramanyanagar, Talaghattapura, Kadugondanahalli, Sampigehalli, Kengeri, and Yelahanka.

They specifically targeted gold and silver ornaments adorning deities and cash from temple donation boxes (hundis).

Between September 3 and 12, the police recovered 5 kg of silver articles, 67 grams of gold ornaments, 1,426 grams of brass items, and 353 grams of copper articles.

With the arrests, the police said they have solved 13 cases of temple theft reported across the city.

Whitefield police bust 2-wheeler theft racket

BENGALURU, DHNS: The Whitefield police have arrested a 24-year-old man in a two-wheeler theft racket, leading to the recovery of 20 stolen vehicles worth Rs 20 lakh and solving 12 cases.

The case began with a complaint by a Vijayanagar resident on September 6, stating that his bike, parked near the ITPL mall gate on August 30, had been stolen.

B Firoz

Acting on credible information and CCTV footage, the police arrested the suspect, B Firoz, a native of Andhra Pradesh, at Kotturu village in Hoskote on September 7.

During interrogation, Firoz confessed to stealing several two-wheelers from Whitefield. He was produced before a court on September 8 and remanded in 15-day police custody.

Firoz admitted to selling five bikes to an acquaintance in Hurugalavadi village, Maddur taluk, gave nine to relatives in Kadiri Mandal, Andhra Pradesh, and parked six near the Shivakuntamma Temple.

Between September 10 and 15, the police recovered all 20 vehicles.

◆ IN THE CITY ◆

GENERAL

'Vikasit Bharat' Painting Competition: Bangalore Regional Center of Indira Gandhi National Center for the Arts (IGNCA), Mallattahalli; 9 am.

Teacher's Day Celebration: Sharan Prakash Patil to attend; Dhanvantari Hall, Rajiv Gandhi University of Health Sciences, Jayanagar; 11.30 am.

Round Table Meeting on 'Current Direction of Dalit Politics in the Country': Federation of Dalit Organisations; Shankara Bhavan 1; 11.30 am.

CULTURAL

Bharatanatyam performance: Students of Kalikamba Fine Arts; Lakshmi Narasimhaswamy Temple, Attiguppe, Vijayanagar 2nd Stage; 5.30 pm.

Conversation with Girish Kasaravalli: B.E.S. Arts and Commerce Evening College, Jayanagar 4th Block; 6 pm.

Oonjal Music Festival: Gunavardhan Ananda Ram and team; Venkateswara Swamy Temple, Vayalikaval; 6 pm.

◆ CITY WEATHER ◆

FORECAST

Generally cloudy sky with one or two spells of rain or thundershowers

TEMPERATURES

Maximum	28.6°C
Minimum	20.0°C
Rainfall (as of 8:30 am)	--
Humidity (as of 5:30 pm)	69%
Sunset (Sep 24)	6:15 pm
Sunrise (Sep 25)	6:09 am
Moonrise	7:07 am
Moonset	7:09 pm

(Relevant data recorded at 5.30 pm) Source: IMD

Clear debris, restore road once metro work is completed: BMRCL

Directive follows traffic congestion complaints near construction sites

BENGALURU, DHNS

Namma Metro has issued strict instructions to clear debris, junk and temporary barricades as soon as the work is over.

The move comes after complaints of traffic congestion due to debris and junk near metro sites.

It addresses concerns over the abysmal condition of the Outer Ring Road (ORR). Metro works are currently ongoing on the Pink (Kalena Agrahara to Nagavara) and Blue (Silk Board Junction to the airport via KR Puram) lines.

The circular, effective September 20, was issued by Sumit Bhatnagar, in-charge Director (Project and Planning), BMRCL.

According to the circular, all debris, waste, leftover materials and temporary barricades at metro construction sites — elevated, underground, station sites, shafts, tunnels, track-laying, utility diversion, etc — must be cleared immediately on completion of work. Full use of road carriageway and footpaths must be restored without delay to ensure smooth traffic flow.

Project supervisors/contractors must ensure that debris, leftover materials, packing, temporary barriers, etc, are cleared at the end of each work shift or as soon as the work is done.

Site engineers/inspectors will certify that the road/pavement has been restored to its original width and state.

Safety officers should ensure safe and smooth passage for vehicles and pedestrians during the work and clearance process.

The circular also mandates restoring the road carriageway to its original width/alignment, free of obstructions. Pavement level, camber and drainage must be restored so that water does not stagnate.

Road signage, markings and safety barriers must be replaced and potholes rectified immediately.

There should not be any loose debris, trip hazards, etc on the surface.

Debris/junk should be immediately cleared from the road medians/below the viaduct.

Adequate safeguards (cones/barricades/signage) must be placed during work and removed once the work and clearance is completed.

Alternative routes or diversions should be informed in advance to the traffic police.

To minimise disruption, the clearance should be carried out, as far as possible, during non-peak traffic hours.

Inspections will be carried out by the engineer-in-charge to ensure compliance.

In cases where resources or weather conditions prevent immediate clearance or restoration (heavy rains, floodwaters, non-availability of materials), the contractor/project supervisor must seek written approval in advance, specifying timelines for completing the restoration, and inform the relevant authority for temporary traffic arrangements, as per the circular.

The BMRCL wants debris, leftover materials, temporary barriers, etc, cleared at the end of each work shift.
DH PHOTO/PUSHKAR V

Police nab jewellery workshop staff; ornaments worth Rs 36L recovered

BENGALURU, DHNS: The Rajajinagar police have arrested a 38-year-old jewellery workshop employee and recovered stolen gold, silver, and diamond ornaments worth Rs 36 lakh.

The case came to light on September 9 when a jewellery shop owner from 3rd Block, Rajajinagar, filed a complaint.

He stated that on September 4, a worker from his workshop had stolen 351.19 grams of gold necklaces with precious stones, Polka diamonds, 22.22 grams of silver articles, and an advance payment of Rs 62,190.

Based on the complaint, a case of theft was registered.

The Rajajinagar police launched an investigation, pursuing various leads and gathering intelligence from informants. On September 16, they apprehended the suspect, Nithin, near ESI Hospital.

During interrogation, Nithin confessed to the theft, revealing that he had hidden the stolen valuables in a lodge near the hospital.

Following his confession, the police recovered 243 grams of gold ornaments, diamond stones, and a 22-gram silver bar from his possession.

Nithin was produced before the court on September 16 and remanded to judicial custody, police said.

CENTRAL RAILWAY
Electrical Department
ELECTRICAL WORK
E-Tender Notice
The Senior Divisional Electrical Engineer (TRD), Central Railway, Solapur, for and on behalf of the President of India invites online e-tenders on Railways e-procurement website www.ireps.gov.in from reputed, experienced & licensed Electrical contractors for the following works. **Tender No**.: SUR/TD/T/2025/22 **Name of Work** :- Electrical TRD portion of work in connection with provision of one long-haul loop line in each direction at Akkalkot Road station in Solapur Wadi section of Solapur Division. **Estimated cost** :- ₹ 1,23,61,215.70/-, **Bid Security** :- ₹ 2,11,800/- **Completion Period** :- 12 months, **Validity of offer** :- 60 Days, **Date & time of tender closing on website** :- 17/10/2025 at 15:00 hours.
Sr. Divisional Electrical Engineer (TRD)
SUN 77
अपने जानवरों को रेल लाइन से दूर रखे

SOUTH WESTERN RAILWAY
Publication of Corrigendum to Tender Notice No.: CAO/CN/BNC/131/2025 Dated 24.07.2025
The undersigned, on behalf of the President of India, Invites E-Tenders for the following works:

Item of work	Approx. Value
Construction of new broad gauge line between mid section (km: 5.72) and Kuppam (incl.) (km: 23.869) under Marikuppam - Kuppam new line project (23.7 km) including civil & track works, signal & telecommunication works, railway electrification and electrical general services on EPC mode. **(Tender Ref. No. MKM-KPN-EPC-02)**	Rs. 354,84,42,876/-

Date of Closing

Existing	Modified
26.09.2025 (15:00 hrs)	15.10.2025 (15:00 hrs)

For details log on: www.ireps.gov.in
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BEFORE THE NATIONAL COMPANY LAW TRIBUNAL, BENGALURU BENCH, AT BENGALURU
COMPANY APPLICATION C.P. NO. 95/BB/2024
IN THE MATTER OF
Section 66 of the Companies Act, 2013 read with Rule 2 of the National Company Law Tribunal (Procedure for Reduction of Share Capital) Rules, 2016
AND
In the matter of **Amazon Development Centre (India) Private Limited** a company incorporated under the provisions of Companies Act, 1956 Having its registered office at No. 26/1, Brigade World Trade Centre, 10th Floor, Dr. Raj Kumar Road, Malleshwaram (W), Bengaluru, Karnataka - 560055.
Represented by its Authorised Signatory, Ms. Priyanka Ramchandran
...Petitioner Company
NOTICE OF CONFIRMATION OF REDUCTION OF SHARE CAPITAL
Amazon Development Centre (India) Private Limited filed the above captioned Company Petition before the Hon'ble National Company Law Tribunal, Bengaluru Bench ("**Tribunal**") on September 14, 2024, for confirming the reduction of the issued, subscribed and paid-up share capital of the Petitioner Company from INR 2,25,880 to INR 1,71,280.
The Tribunal vide its order dated August 22, 2025, as rectified by the order dated September 15, 2025, has approved the Minutes of the Extraordinary General Meeting dated September 04, 2024 of the Petitioner Company and confirmed the reduction of the issued, subscribed and paid-up share capital of the Petitioner Company from INR 2,25,880, divided into 22,588 equity shares of INR 10 each to INR 1,71,280 divided into 17,128 equity shares of INR 10 each by cancelling and extinguishing 5,460 equity shares having face value of INR 10 each.
For **Amazon Development Centre (India) Private Limited,**
Represented by their Advocates,
AZB & Partners
37 Cunningham, 5th Floor,
Cunningham Road, Bengaluru - 560052.

कार्यपालक अभियंता का कार्यालय
ग्रामीण विकास विशेष प्रमंडल, साहेबगंज।
शुद्धि–पत्र
पत्रांक–1051 / साहेबगंज दिनांक–23.09.2025
इस कार्यालय के द्वारा आमंत्रित अल्पकालीन ई0 निविदा संख्या **RDSpl/SAHIBGANJ/10/2025-26,** जिसका P.R. No. 360878 (Rural Development) (25-26) है, की तिथियों को अपरिहार्य कारणवश निम्नवत् संशोधित की जाती है :–

क्र0		पूर्व में प्रकाशित तिथि एवं समय	संशोधित तिथि एवं समय
01	वेबसाईट पर निविदा प्रकाशन की तिथि :	दिनांक 02.09.2025	दिनांक 02.09.2025
02	ई0–निविदा प्राप्ति की अंतिम तिथि एवं समय :	दिनांक 02.09.2025 से दिनांक 24.09.2025 5.00PM बजे तक।	दिनांक 02.09.2025 से दिनांक 04.10.2025 5.00PM बजे तक।
03	निविदा खोलने की तिथि एवं समय :	दिनांक 26.09.2025 को 2.00PM बजे तक।	दिनांक 06.10.2025 को 2.00PM बजे तक।

शेष सभी शर्तें यथावत् रहेंगी।
कार्यपालक अभियंता
ग्रामीण विकास विशेष प्रमंडल, साहेबगंज।
PR 362654 (Rural Development) 25-26 (D)

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Bizman, contract killer arrested for plotting rival's murder

BENGALURU, DHNS: A local businessman and an interstate contract killer have been arrested by the Bagalagunte police for plotting to murder a rival textile store owner.

Business rivalry is said to be the motive.

The police have arrested Venaram, 40, owner of a fashion clothing shop on Bagalagunte Main Road, and Vinod Jat, 40, a native of Sojat Taluk, Pali District, Rajasthan, who was hired to kill Nemaram.

The issue surfaced when Nemaram filed a complaint with the Bagalagunte police on September 17, saying he suspected Venaram had hired someone to kill him.

According to the complaint, Nemaram had lured away an employee of Venaram, who owns the adjacent shop, with a higher salary. This led to a decline in sales for Venaram.

Overcome by jealousy, Venaram allegedly hired Vinod for Rs 5 lakh to murder Nemaram and paid Rs 1 lakh as advance.

Acting on the complaint, the Bagalagunte police formed two special teams to solve the case.

The first team arrested Venaram from his shop on September 18. During interrogation, Venaram spilled the beans about the contract and disclosed the identity of the killer he had hired. The second team then arrested Vinod in Rajasthan on the same day.

Govt bans foreign trips for officials

BENGALURU, DHNS: The state government has banned all foreign trips for officials in the current fiscal year after it was found that many of them did not submit 'study reports' after such tours.

In a circular, the Department of Personnel & Administrative Reforms (DPAR), which reports to Chief Minister Siddaramaiah, said no official foreign trip will be allowed in 2025 until further orders.

"Between August 2024 and July 2025, officials who went on foreign trips had been asked by the CM to submit study reports comprising learnings and recommendations within a week after returning home. But the government has noticed that many officials have not submitted study reports on their foreign visits," it stated.

Requests seeking permission for foreign visits will be examined only if officials "compulsorily" submit reports on past tours, the circular specified. In any case, as per the circular, the government has decided not to allow any official foreign visits until March 2026.

41,146 professional course seats unfilled under KCET

More engineering and nursing seats vacant this year

BENGALURU, DHNS

The number of seats left unfilled in various professional courses this year through the Karnataka Common Entrance Test (KCET) has increased drastically compared to the previous year.

The Karnataka Examinations Authority (KEA) has completed all three rounds of seat allotment for Engineering, Nursing, Pharmacy and Agriculture courses.

Currently, the KEA is allotting seats only for Medical, Dental, and Ayush courses.

According to the data available from KEA, 41,146 seats have remained vacant this year, as against the 26,072 seats left vacant during the KCET 2024.

The number of unfilled seats has almost doubled from 2024 to 2025.

Engineering and Nursing streams have contributed more, with 14,990 and 19,832 seats unfilled, respectively, this year.

Experts said that an abnormal increase in intake at the engineering colleges and the poor infrastructure at both nursing and engineering colleges have been the reason for students not opting for seats for these courses at some of the colleges.

"In 2024, 1.23 lakh seats were available, and 97,191 seats got filled, whereas in 2025, 1.51 lakh seats were available, and 1.10 lakh have been filled. A total of 28,000 additional seats were available under the KCET quota this year," said an official from the KEA.

"We cannot say that the demand for engineering courses has declined by looking at the vacant seats. Indiscriminate increase in seats by private colleges is the main reason for it," said an official of Visvesvaraya Technological University (VTU).

Interestingly, around 14,990 engineering seats have not been opted for by any of the students. Under VTU, there are over 250 engineering colleges across the state. There are 25 private universities. This year, KEA had 84,206 seats for engineering courses. In this, 69,216 seats were filled, and 14,990 seats are vacant.

High-demand courses

When it comes to Pharmacy, only 796 seats out of 3,818 seats available are vacant.

In courses like Food Science, Agriculture, Animal Husbandry, and Sericulture, all the seats have been filled.

Number of vacant seats

Year	Available seats	Filled	Vacant
2025	1,51,593	1,10,447	41,146
2024	1,23,226	97,191	26,072

18,578 COMED-K seats vacant

This year, 18,578 seats are left unfilled under COMED-K. This figure was 18,726 in 2024 and 14,354 in 2023.

The establishment of a larger number of engineering colleges in neighbouring states and some of the private colleges not having the necessary infrastructure and placements have been the main reasons for it.

H PRASANNA
Executive director, KEA

"Increased intake at colleges is the main reason for more vacant seats this year, when compared to last year.

Incompetence, lack of civic sense has left city filthy: Kiran Mazumdar-Shaw

BENGALURU, DHNS

Bengaluru has gone filthy with piling garbage and debris due to lack of management, Biocon chief Kiran Mazumdar-Shaw said in a post on X.

She said that the problem is a combination of the Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike's incompetence and lack of civic sense.

Kiran Mazumdar-Shaw

"Citizens must cooperate by not dumping garbage and creating ugly dark spots. Pourakarmikas need to be given better equipment and training to keep our city clean. Zonal commissioners need to take ownership of SWM," the post said.

But marshals on the ground blamed lack of cooperation from citizens as the reason for blackspots.

"Pourakarmikas clean up the city every morning. We do take measures to clear debris also. However, rampant dumping of garbage by citizens is the problem," one marshals said.

Citizens throwing garbage bags on the move is the bigger problem since it would be challenging to trace and warn them, the official said, adding that they have penalised several citizens who were caught dumping debris on the roadside.

600 vacant posts of nursing officials to be filled on priority

BENGALURU, DHNS: The state government has ordered the filling of 600 vacant posts of nursing officers to make treatment more accessible to patients.

The vacant posts are being filled on the condition that these 600 positions will immediately cease to exist once the posts are filled by permanent employees.

The recruitment of the employees will be done without taking into consideration their previous stint in the department. The government has also ordered to make sure there are no legal implications for direct employment in the future.

The vacant posts will be filled on a priority basis. Each staff nurse will be paid Rs 24,395, including Rs 17,435 basic and ESI facilities.

The secretary of the Health and Family Welfare Department must submit the list of requirements for the officers and the details of the district hospital before employing them to the government.

The vacant posts will be filled on a priority basis. Each staff nurse will be paid Rs 24,395, including Rs 17,435 basic and ESI facilities.

The government has also ordered the employment of 1205 Primary Health Safety Officials and 300 Inspection officers.

Along with it, 400 junior lab assistants and 400 pharmacist positions are to be filled on a contract basis for one year.

Movie buffs sore over court stay on ticket price cap

PRANATI A S
BENGALURU, DHNS:

Movie buffs are upset over the high court staying the cap on the prices of movie tickets.

Balu V L, a film buff and lawyer based in Bengaluru, said that the stay was neither good for the people nor for the Kannada film industry.

"The industry will suffer. In Tamil Nadu, there has been a Rs 200-cap on ticket prices for the past 15 years. The front two rows are even today priced below Rs 60 per ticket," he says.

"Tiruppur Subramanya, a leading exhibitor in TN, for the past 20 years has stressed on the need for a cap on ticket prices. He has on many occasions said that one of the main reasons why Tamil films do well is because of ticket pricing".

It is also disappointing that home grown production houses like Hombale have filed a petition against the cap.

This also shows that there is no unity in the Kannada film industry, he says, adding, "Why have multiplexes in Tamil Nadu not gone to court".

Freelance translator Anuroopa calls the move disappointing. "If Hombale Films didn't have 'Kantara Chapter 1' ready for release, I don't think they would have filed a petition against the cap".

"Even now the government can get the stay vacated, by citing the TN example. Hombale Films is not bigger than the government, but if the government is not serious about it, nothing can be done," she says.

Senior journalist Pratibha Nandakumar has a different take on the matter.

"Low ticket prices will affect the Kannada film industry and producers will suffer," she says.

"The tickets must be priced moderately—it should neither be Rs 200 nor Rs 2,000," she says.

"Rs 500 per ticket is fine, because people are spending a lot of money on hotels and streaming platforms," Pratibha adds.

We should also look at the repercussions on Hollywood and big budget distributors who are bringing their films to Bengaluru, she says.

"We prefer going to multiplexes because of the facilities they offer. If there are uniform ticket prices, theatres may remove surround sound and my movie watching experience will not be great," Pratibha feels.

Madhukar N G, an avid movie fan, believes cinema should be accessible to all.

"It's a terrible decision to stay the Rs 200 cap order, because we want to experience watching movies on the big screen," Madhukar said.

"On weekends, the prices are Rs 300 to Rs 400/450, depending on the demand for the movie. With the cap on prices, we had to pay Rs 150 to Rs 200 less, encouraging us to watch a few more movies," he said.

He believes that the court stay on price cap will only profit multiplexes and big budget movies.

In 2017, the government made a similar attempt, but multiplex chains and exhibitors challenged it in court, leading to the relaxation of the cap.

ANUROOPA
Freelance translator

"Even now the government can get the stay vacated, by citing the TN example. Hombale Films is not bigger than the government, but if the government is not serious about it, nothing can be donequote in flama black.

High Court stays the rule on movie price cap

'Govt rule restricts cinema owners' right to conduct business'

BENGALURU, DHNS

The Karnataka High Court on Tuesday stayed the operation of the Karnataka Cinemas (Regulation) (Amendment) Rules 2025, which caps movie ticket prices at Rs 200 across the state.

Justice Ravi V Hosmani passed this order in a batch of petitions filed by the Multiplex Association of India and others.

The court had reserved its orders on the interim prayer last week.

The petitioners challenged the September 12, 2025, notification, giving effect to the amended Rules, contending that the proviso to Rule 55 (6) is ultra vires the Karnataka Cinemas Regulation Act, violates Articles 14, 19 (1) (g) of the Constitution, as well as unreasonable and manifestly arbitrary.

The petitioners claimed that a similar government order issued in April 2017, which capped the price at Rs 200, was challenged before the High Court, and it was withdrawn later.

According to the petitioners, there is no power under the Karnataka Cinemas Regulation Act to fix a price, and it does not contemplate ticket price capping.

It is further claimed that the multiplexes have spent huge sums of money on creating cinema halls and that the amendment directly restricts cinema owners' right to conduct business.

Another petitioner, Hombale Films LLP, stated that a proviso is introduced to Rule 55 (6), whereas Rule 55 is in respect of ticket booths and has nothing to do with price fixation.

The film production company said that the decision has been taken without any study. It was also submitted that the price of the ticket is a contract between the exhibitor and the movie-goer, and the price can vary from one theatre to another.

Govt issues order on salaries for Jain temple priests

BENGALURU, DHNS

Minority Welfare Minister B Z Zameer Ahmed Khan said that he has issued an order to fix salaries for chief priests and their assistants at Jain temples in the state.

Zameer Ahmed Khan

Chief priests of 1,043 Jain temples in the state will receive a salary of Rs 6,000 each. Assistant priests will get Rs 5,000 each, Khan said in a statement.

The fixation of salaries for Jain priests, the first such initiative, was announced in the state budget, the minister said.

"So far, 1,043 proposals have been received from various districts for salaries. Minister Zameer Ahmed Khan has approved all these proposals and instructed that the order be issued," his office said.

He also issued an order to release Rs 1 crore for the development of the Mahabodhi Society in Gandhi Nagar, Bengaluru.

Earlier this year, Khan had told the Legislative Assembly that his department had proposed to establish a development corporation for the Jain community.

There are 20 lakh Jains in the state, according to the minister.

National eGovernance Award 2025 conferred on BBMP's e-khata initiative

BENGALURU, DHNS: The Government of India has honoured the BBMP's e-khata initiative with the 'National eGovernance Award 2025' at the 28th National eGov Awards ceremony.

The e-khata project was recognised for its pioneering role in digitising property records, ensuring transparency, and strengthening citizen service delivery in Bengaluru.

The award was received by Tushar Giri Nath, Additional Chief Secretary of the Urban Development Department, Munish Moudgil, IAS (Special Commissioner, GBA), Lakshmi Devi, Joint Commissioner (Revenue), and the entire e-khata team of the Greater Bengaluru Authority (GBA).

Union Minister of State (Independent Charge) for Science and Technology Jitendra Singh presented the award.

Govt extends serving of Ragi health mix powder

BENGALURU, DHNS: The state government has extended the serving of Sai Sure Ragi Health mix powder to school kids for five days a week.

Currently, the health mix is served three days a week. In the order, the Department of School Education and Literacy has stated that 25% of the total cost will be borne by the government. The total cost of the project is Rs 100 crore. During the 2024 academic year, the government had started supplying Sai Sure Ragi Health mix powder to children of all government and aided schools.

Nimhans launches Ayush Mann integrative medicine programme

BENGALURU, DHNS: The National Institute for Mental Health and Neuro Sciences (Nimhans) on Tuesday launched a month-long campaign — Ayush Mann — to raise awareness about Integrative Medicine for Mental Well-being.

Integrative Medicine is a combination of allopathy medicines, yoga and ayurvedic treatments like panchakarma for the mental well-being of the patients. The Integrative Medicine Department has treated over 10,000 patients so far.

Patients with anxiety disorders, depression, Parkinson's, schizophrenia, obsessive compulsive disorder, and other mental health disorders are treated successfully in integrative medicine, said Dr Avinash, senior resident at Nimhans' Integrative Medicine Department.

A six-month randomised controlled trial evaluated the effectiveness of a yoga-based intervention as an add-on therapy for 55 patients with schizophrenia.

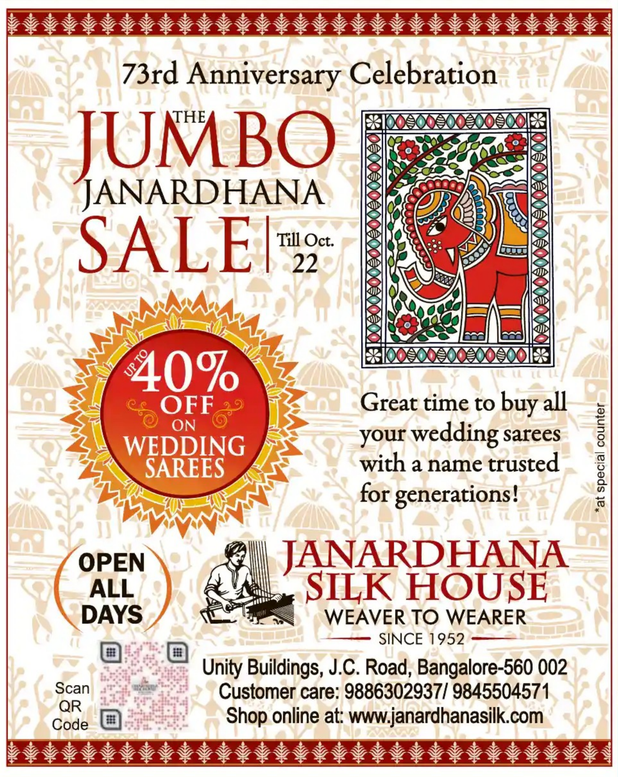
The results showed that the yoga add-on therapy (YT) group had significantly greater improvements in negative symptoms compared to the treatment-as-usual over the six-month study period.

Dr B N Gangadhar, former director of Nimhans, said, "When a schizophrenia patient performs yoga, oxytocin — a do-good hormone — gets released, which contributes to their recovery."

In another experiment, yoga was mooted as a single mode of treatment for depression.

The progress of the patients was tracked over 12 weeks using standard clinical scales and blood tests.

By the end of the study, patients reported clear improvements in their mood and overall well-being.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Applications & Nominations are invited from persons of repute with excellence in academic, research & administration for the post of **Vice-Chancellor.** Applications of persons of highest integrity & commitment with commensurate experience will be placed before the search cum selection committee.

The Search Committee reserves the right to consider any person of eminence outside the list of such application/ nominations also.

The details of eligibility criteria prescribed for post of Vice-Chancellor and format of the application are available on the website of the University **www.kaher.edu.in**

The online application should be sent to **est@kledeemeduniversity.edu.in** along with a detailed biodata, and records of academic, research, and administrative achievements, set of Applications in hard copy should be addressed to the Registrar, KAHER, Belagavi so as to reach on before **10th October 2025**.

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Anganwadi workers will be roped in for survey if needed: Minister

BENGALURU, DHNS: Minister for School Education and Literacy Madhu Bangarappa on Tuesday said that the government would rope in Anganwadi workers for the Social and Education Survey if the number of teachers pressed into service proves insufficient for the task.

Claiming that technical problems were to be expected while conducting such surveys, Madhu said, "Teachers are carrying out the task happily; nobody is opposing it."

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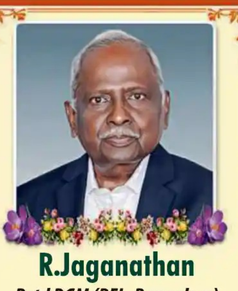

R.Jaganathan
Retd DGM (BEL, Bangalore)
Age:-74 years, DOD:- 18.09.2025.
It is with deep sorrow that we announce the passing of our beloved Mr. Jaganathan, a cherished Husband, Father and Grandfather, Who left us peacefully on **September 18th.**
He will be remembered for the love, warmth and kindness he shared with everyone around him.
Mourned By :
Wife, Daughters, Sons-in-law, Grandchildren and **Relatives**

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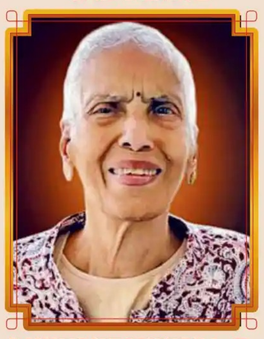

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Cremation:
Wednesday (24-09-2025) at Hebbal Crematorium at 2.00 PM

BC Commission denies BJP's charge of Christian caste entries

'Neither the survey nor the drop-down have these castes'

BENGALURU, DHNS

The Karnataka State Backwards Classes (BC) Commission on Tuesday refuted the BJP's charges about the inclusion of "14 Christian castes with Scheduled Caste (SC) and Scheduled Tribe (ST) prefixes" in the list of castes for the ongoing Social and Educational Survey.

In a press release, the commission said: "These castes were included in the list of castes published in newspapers on August 22, 2025, to seek suggestions.

"After suggestions and discussions, the castes mentioned above have been excluded from the final list. Neither the survey manual nor the drop-down in the app has these castes."

The 14 castes mentioned by the BJP are: Adi Andhra Christian, Adi Dravida Christian, Budga Jangama Christian, Lamani Christian, Mala Christian, Madiga Christian, Vodda Christian, Adi Karnataka Christian, Banjara Christian, Holeya Christian, Lambani Christian, Mahar Christian, Paraya Christian and Valmiki Christian.

BJP delegation

Earlier on Tuesday, a delegation of BJP leaders, comprising Leader of the Opposition in the Legislative Council Chalavadi Narayanaswamy, former Union minister A Narayanswamy, BJP General Secretary V Sunil Kumar and others, met the commission chairman Madhusudhan R Naik and urged him to "hide" 14 castes (13 SC and 1 ST communities) in the enumerators' list.

The government had published a list of 1,400 castes in some newspapers on August 22, 2025. Overall, there were 1,413 castes in the commission's list.

After calling for objections, the commission omitted some castes, added some others, and the final tally came up to 1,561 castes.

After a huge controversy erupted over certain Christian castes being attached to Hindu caste names (Kuruba Christian, Madivala Christian, Ediga Christian, Kamma Christian, Reddy Christian, Brahmin Christian and so on), the commission decided to hide 33 such Christian castes having Hindu caste names as prefixes or suffixes.

However, none of these 14 castes were in the list of 1,561 castes being provided to enumerators.

"These castes were not in the list only. They (the BJP's delegation) had come due to a misunderstanding and asked us to remove it. Where's the question of removing when those names were not there only," Naik told reporters.

BJP reiterates claim

The BJP, however, stuck to its claim that the castes were there in the list and had to be removed.

Speaking to reporters, Chalavadi Narayanaswamy said, "They had added castes, like Brahmin Christians, Lingayat Christians, Vokkaliga, Kuruba, Yadava; everyone had been added. Dalits had also been added – Holeya Christian, Madiga Christian, Banjara Christian, Bhovi Christian... When influential communities protested, they said those castes had been hidden. But scheduled castes and communities haven't been hidden (sic)."

Slamming the commission, he added, "They say the original castes remain even after conversion to Christianity. How is it possible? They cannot remain."

"Not just hiding, the enumerators shouldn't ask questions such as 'Do you go to church?' The government is controlling the commission," Narayanaswamy said.

Survey picks up on Day 2 amid technical glitches

18,487 houses enumerated across the state; Haveri leads with 2,783

BENGALURU, DHNS

The Social and Educational Survey picked up on Tuesday with 18,487 households being enumerated, even though various technical issues persisted across the state.

By 6 pm, 18,487 households (71,004 persons) were enumerated across the state (including Days 1 and 2).

Haveri had the highest number of households enumerated (2,783), followed by Bagalkot (1,840), Belagavi and Gadag (1,826 each), Chitradurga (1,322) and Mandya (1,205). Tumakuru saw the least progress, with only 7 households enumerated.

Though the survey is yet to start in the Greater Bengaluru Authority (GBA) region, as many as 53 households (187 persons) were enumerated in some gram panchayats coming under Bengaluru Urban.

Enumerators deputed for social and educational survey check the working of the app meant for the survey on their mobile phones in Kalaburagi on Tuesday.
DH PHOTO/TAJUIDDIN AZAD

Problems persist

Technical glitches and planning problems persisted across districts like Ballari, Vijayanagara, Gadag, Belagavi, Bidar and Dakshina Kannada. The app failed to open in Bidar, with repeated displays on the screen reading "error"

In Belagavi, Jayakumar Hebali, the district president of the state primary school teachers' association, said: "The list of enumerators includes deceased teachers too. Instead of assigning us places near where we work, they have put us elsewhere. One enumerator has been allotted to nine different places. If the errors are not rectified, we will boycott the survey in Belagavi urban."

In Hungund in Bagalkot district, teachers complained of being assigned houses in 2-3 different taluks.

"We had requested the district administration to leave out teachers with serious health issues, pregnant women teachers and those who have crossed 59 years of age. Since the district administration cooperated with this, teachers participated in the survey on Tuesday. However, only 5% of surveys have taken place," K Dinakar Shetty Amparu, the Udupi district president of Karnataka State Primary School Teachers' Association.

Network issues, coupled with problems to enter data in the app, troubled many enumerators.

"In May, teachers had been deployed for the internal reservation survey. Training was imparted on May 2, following which the survey began and ended on June 7. Even now, we haven't got the honorarium for it. We didn't even get an attendance certificate. If we get these letters, we can seek leaves under the KCSR," a teacher said in Mangaluru. There were also complaints of staff shortage in Mangaluru.

Speaking to reporters earlier in Bengaluru, Backward Classes Commission chairperson Madhusudhan R Naik said: "As per my information, the survey is going on well. As of now, there are no concerns in the survey. If there are small issues, the administrative authorities will resolve them. It's not my job.

Siddu may finish off Congress: BJP MP

BENGALURU, DHNS

In a scathing attack on the ongoing Social and Educational Survey -- Caste Census -- in the state, Rajya Sabha BJP MP Lahar Singh Siroya on Tuesday said that Chief Minister Siddaramaiah may "finish off the Congress" leaving "nothing really" for his deputy D K Shivakumar to take over.

"I wish Siddaramaiah a very happy Dasara. I also want to extend my heartfelt thanks to him for helping the cause of my party by antagonising large sections of people in Karnataka," said Siroya in his statement.

"By ordering a caste census in a tearing hurry, Siddaramaiah has made everybody, including his own party members and Cabinet colleagues unhappy. As of today, Vokkaligas, Lingayats, Dalits, OBCs, Brahmins, minorities, tribal communities, and the nomads are upset with the Congress government. The CM should ask if his own Kuruba community is with him or if they too are upset. Who is really happy with the survey is a good question to ask. Perhaps only Rahul Gandhi," said Siroya, adding that each community was "afraid" of the survey's outcome.

"Anyway, we in the BJP have nothing to complain about all this. I had suggested in the past that there was no need for the state to get a separate caste census done, when the Centre had announced a survey along with general census," Siroya said.

Citizen participation in survey is voluntary, panel tells HC

BENGALURU, DHNS: The Karnataka Backward Classes Commission on Tuesday informed the Karnataka High Court that collection of Aadhaar card details, as part of the state wide Socio-Economic and Educational Survey (caste survey), is only for the purpose of identification. Senior advocate Prof Ravivarma Kumar, appearing for the commission, also said that participation of citizens in the survey is voluntary.

The senior advocate said this when the court asked a pointed query on data protection expressed by the petitioners in a batch of PILs challenging the survey. The bench also said that there are penal consequences in a similar exercise under the Census Act. A division bench comprising Chief Justice Vibhu Bakhru and Justice C M Joshi deferred the hearing by a day on the plea seeking an interim order of stay on the survey.

During the hearing, senior advocate Abhishek Singhvi, appearing for the state government, said that the 105th amendment to the Constitution has restored the power of the state governments and union territories to identify and list the Socially and Educationally Backward Classes (SEBCs). On the prayer seeking interim stay, Singhvi said the Apex Court in 2023 had refused to stay Bihar Government's caste survey. "The power is not stayed but the exercise of the power is sought to be stayed (in the present petitions). There cannot be data without a survey," Singhvi said.

He further said that the petitioners have mischaracterized the socio- education survey as a caste census. "The moment you equate data gathering to caste census you are stopping the entire power of the state. I cannot go and cherry pick. How on earth anybody gives rational advice without having the data," Singhvi said, adding that it was the union government which piloted and moved the 105th amendment, which came into effect from 2021, and that in the present petitions the Centre is supporting the petitioners.

Earlier, senior advocates Prabhuling Navadgi and Jayakumar Patil, on behalf of the members of the Veerashaiva Mahasabha, submitted that the entire exercise is without competence and it is a camouflage and colourable exercise. "They want to have data of each caste for the political purpose," Patil said.

Another senior advocate Ashok Haranahalli for Vokkaliga Sangha, submitted that the union government has already notified the census from March 1, 2027, in which enumeration of castes would also take place. Senior advocate Vivek Subba Reddy, appearing for former MLA K N Subba Reddy and others, said sudden increase in the number of castes and sub castes, will create confusion. He cited examples of certain castes in the handbook such as Banajiga Christian, Barikar Christian, Bestaru Christian, Brahman Christian, Devanga Christian etc, do not even exist.

Seer tells Panchamasalis to identify as Hindus

CHITRADURGA, DHNS: Panchamasali Gurupeeta seer Vachanananda Swami has said that the community members should identify themselves as Hindus till Lingayat religion is recognised as a separate religion.

"We are now in Hindu religion, which is like our father. When we don't have our own address we have to furnish our father's address. Therefore, Hindu religion is our home as long as we get a separate identity. Veerashaiva Mahasabha too has called upon community members to identify themselves as Hindus in the ongoing social and educational survey," Vachanananda Swami added.

The seer said that the number of Hindus was going in up globally and even westerners were taking refuge in Hindu philosophy.

Hindu temples in the US

"You can find a Hindu temple every 10 km in the US. Churches are closing down. It is for this reason that a global conspiracy is being hatched against Hindus," the Panchamasali Gurupeeta seer alleged.

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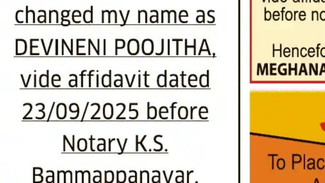

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I, **Meghana Bhavanirao Mahendrakar,** residing at No.20, Gangadhar Chetty Road, Bengaluru-560042 have changed my name to **MEGHANA MAHENDRAKAR** vide affidavit dated 23.09.2025 before notary L Gopalkrishna, Bengaluru.
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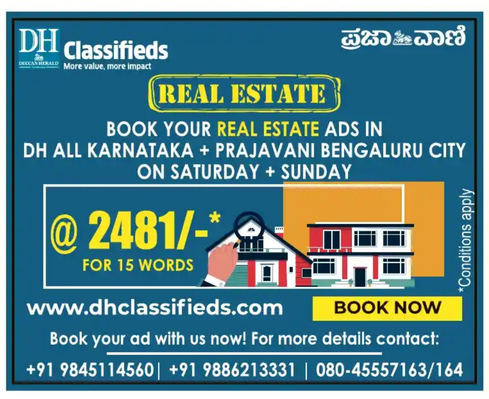
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As congestion worsens, CM...

Wipro, From Page 1

Setting a larger precedent

The outreach, however, was advisory in nature, although the government has power to declare a private street as a public road. This could also set a precedent for opening up the gates of many large tech parks in the city, which are blocking critical links between two major roads.

Some motorists who work in the tech hub suggested that Wipro must consider the option at least during the peak hours, given the growth and job density around Sarjapur Road, Harlur road, Kasavanahalli, Doddakanelli etc. Others urged the government to complete the roads that were part of the comprehensive development plan (CDP).

V Ravichandar, member of the government-constituted Brand Bengaluru committee said the Sarjapur area, like many other areas, needs comprehensive area development approach to retrofit a network of roads.

"This will involve land acquisition. Doing this would be more productive for the future of Bengaluru than one or two local point solutions as a short term fix," he said. "On voluntary land handover for creating road links, we need uniform policy applicable for all large campuses as part of the overall solutions to increase road density."

Trump: China,...

Trump, From Page 1

"Likewise, in a period of just seven unendable wars. They said they were 'unendable, you are never going to get them solved'," he said.

On Russian oil, Trump said that "inexcusably, even NATO countries have not cut off much Russian energy and Russian energy products" and he wasn't happy about this when he found this out.

"Think of it, they're funding the war against themselves. Who the hell ever heard of that one? In the event that Russia is not ready to make a deal to end the war, then the US is fully prepared to impose a very strong round of powerful tariffs, which would stop the bloodshed, I believe, very quickly."

Trump said that for those tariffs to be effective, European nations, "all of you are gathered here right now, would have to join us in adopting the exact same measures. I mean, you're much closer to the city. We have an ocean in between, you're right there, and Europe has to step it up. They can't be doing what they're doing. They're buying oil and gas from Russia while they're fighting Russia.

"It's embarrassing to them, and it was very embarrassing to them when I found out about it, I can tell you that. But they have to immediately cease all energy purchases from Russia, otherwise, we're all wasting a lot of time. So I'm ready to discuss this. We're going to discuss it today with the European nations all gathered here.

"Sure, they're thrilled to hear me speak about it, but that's the way it is. I like to speak my mind and speak the truth," he added.

Doctors operate on wrong leg of woman in Hassan

HASSAN, DHNS: A case of alleged medical negligence has emerged at Hassan Institute of Medical Sciences (HIMS) after doctors operated on the wrong leg of a woman.

The woman had suffered an injury to her left leg in an accident over two and a half years ago, and a rod was inserted to aid healing. Recently, she began experiencing pain and visited HIMS, where she was advised the removal of the rod. However, it is alleged that doctors mistakenly operated on her right leg. Upon realising it, they corrected it by operating on her left leg. She now unable to move independently.

HIMS Medical Superintendent Dr Raghavendra Prasad stated that a committee has been formed to investigate the incident.

Ainapur tense as locals torch lorry transporting 'cow's meat'; 7 held

Suspects had hidden meat under ice slabs

BELAGAVI, DHNS

Tension prevailed at Ainapur in Kagwad taluk of the district after local residents set fire to a lorry allegedly transporting three tonnes of cow's meat in the town on Monday night.

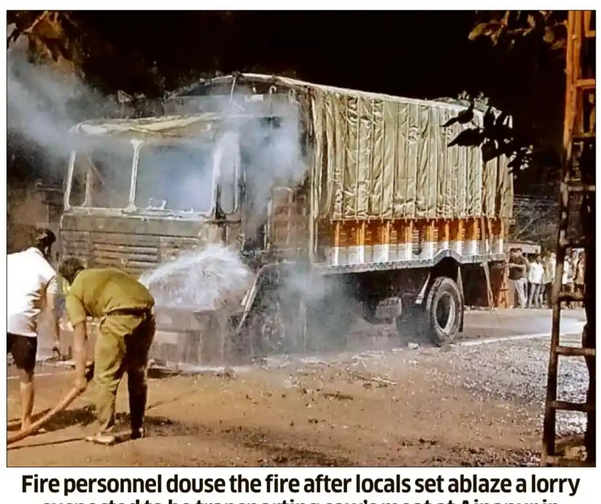
Police have arrested seven people, including the suspects who were illegally transporting the meat and those who set the truck ablaze.

The meat was being transported from Kudachi in Raibag taluk of the district to Hyderabad and it was hidden under ice slabs.

The miscreants, said to be members of Hindu organisations, waylaid the lorry when it was crossing Ainapur and set it on fire.

The truck had been reduced to ashes by the time police arrived at the spot. The miscreants assaulted the driver and cleaner, who sustained injuries.

District Superintendent of Police Dr Bheemashankar Guled told reporters here that suspects - Vikas Ware and Sudhir Gasti from Ashta in Sangli district of Maharashtra and Saheblal Muthawale from Kudachi - had been arrested under the provisions of the Karnataka Prevention of Slaughter and Preservation of Cattle Act, 2020, and the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act, 1960.



Fire personnel douse the fire after locals set ablaze a lorry suspected to be transporting cow's meat at Ainapur in Kagwad taluk of Belagavi district on Monday night.

"Police have taken the fourth suspect into custody in Kalaburagi and is being brought back here," Guled said.

Avesh Jiragale, Suhas Londe, Anil Savali and Sadashiv Kurandavade of Ainapur, seen in the video setting the vehicle on fire, have also been arrested by the police.

An additional case under the SC and ST (Prevention of Atrocities) Act, 1989, has been registered against them, since the lorry driver reportedly belongs to the Dalit community.

"The meat samples have been sent to the lab for tests, to find out if it is cow's meat. The suspects had purchased the meat for a week now," the SP said.

Hybrid work option ends in Oct...

ORR, From Page 1

Returning to office

While some companies officially asked their employees to return to the office in September, many more will follow suit in October in a bid to improve productivity.

While a few companies have sent out official notifications to employees, talks about full-time work from the office have been making the rounds for the past few weeks. "We are being asked to resume work in the office every day to improve our performance. We tried to talk higher-ups out of the decision, but they are set on it. We have been mandated to work full-time from the office from next month," said Sneha S T, an IT professional at a Bellandur-based firm, who spends about four hours every day on her daily commute.

At another tech firm, 'work from office' days have been increased from two to three days a week.

Acknowledging the reluctance of employees to return to office, Manas Das, president, Outer Ring Road Companies Association (ORRCA), said, "An increasing number of companies are asking employees to return to office. While we don't have a say in employers asking their employees to return to the office, we are working on factors that are causing reluctance among employees to make the change. Unless traffic congestion and poor infrastructure are addressed, traffic will definitely get worse."

AI & HIB visa impact

Krishna Kumar Gowda, general secretary of Greater Bengaluru IT Companies & Industries Association (GBITCIA), said, "Employees are making an effort to spend more time in office even without the company asking them to because of growth of AI and the recent H1B visa news. There is a renewed competitive spirit among employees, and this trend is set to grow," he added.

Vitamin B7: How Guj duo concealed their deadly fentanyl op

Vitamin B7, From Page 1

According to the chargesheet, Sutariya and Modi had shipped at least four consignments to Mexico using the same modus operandi, all of which were seized by US customs. At least one consignment reached an agent in Guatemala.

To evade detection, they declared the consignments as "Fish Collagen Peptides", Vitamin B7, among others, it said. The two were arrested following nearly four months of authorised phone tapping. ATS monitored Sutariya, Modi, and several other associates. Their conversations revealed how systematically they ran the illicit trade without detection.

"...the accused Satish Sutariya and Yukta Modi, in collusion and with full knowledge, prepared bogus End-User Certificates in the name of Amino Organics and Vasudha Pharmachem Ltd. for the purpose of purchasing precursors required for the manufacture of the prohibited psychotropic substance fentanyl, and further attempted to export such precursors to Mexico and Guatemala," stated the chargesheet.

It adds that the duo faked labels and prepared false invoices on precursor consignment meant for manufacturing fentanyl.

Bhavesh Lathiya, who was arrested and indicted by the US government in January for trafficking similar substances, is allegedly associated with Sutariya through Athos Chemicals Pvt Ltd.

Reports by US intelligence agencies and indictment orders against Indian businessmen and pharma companies have identified India "as a key hub for exporting fentanyl precursor chemicals."

These reports suggested China as a "primary source" and India as a "secondary supplier."

Crowd Control Bill: House committee formed

Home minister will head the panel

BENGALURU, DHNS

Legislative Assembly Speaker U T Khader has constituted an 11-member committee to scrutinise the Crowd Control Bill, which proposes stringent penal provisions against event organisers in the wake of the June 4 stampede at the Chinnaswamy Stadium.

Home Minister G Parameshwara will head the committee, which has been asked to submit its report in three months.

The committee also has Law & Parliamentary Affairs Minister H K Patil.

MLAs Rizwan Arshad (Shivajinagar), Shreenivasaiah N (Nelamangala), Ravishankar D (Krishnarajanagara), Srinivas D Mane (Hangal), Prakash Koliwad (Ranibennur), H D Thammaiah (Chikmagalur), V Sunil Kumar (Karkala), S R Vishwanath (Yelahanka) and G D Harish Gowda (Hunsur) are the other members.

The June 4 stampede killed 11 people, prompting the government to come up with the Karnataka Crowd Control (Managing Crowd at Events and Place of Gathering) Bill.

The punishment for organising events without permission is 3-7 years' jail and a fine of Rs 1 crore. Any event that leads to a crowd disaster will carry 3-7 years' jail and up to life imprisonment if deaths occur.

The proposed law also requires organisers to apply for police permission 10 days before an event. Family functions or events, such as marriage, which are performed or held within private premises (leased, hired or contracted) are exempted.

When the Bill was introduced in the Assembly last month, opposition lawmakers described it as "draconian" and expressed worries that it might curtail protests and impact cultural events.

Panel for Land Revenue Bill

Khader has formed another 11-member scrutiny committee, headed by Revenue Minister Krishna Byre Gowda, to examine the Karnataka Land Revenue (Second Amendment) Bill. H K Patil is also on this committee along with MLAs A S Ponnanna and others. This Bill aims to address problems with the Jamma Bane system of land holding in Kodagu.

KEA announces results of 2nd round of counselling

BENGALURU DHNS: The Karnataka Examinations Authority (KEA) has announced the final results of the second round of seat allotment for medical and dental courses, and third round for AYUSH courses. Overall, a total of 18,867 seats have been allotted. As many as 9,958 medical seats have been allotted in two rounds.

◆ WEATHER ◆

Overview: Rainfall occurred at few places over South Interior and at many places over Coastal Karnataka and North Interior Karnataka

Forecast Sept 24: Rainfall to occur at some places over the state.

INTERIOR NORTH			
Stations	Max	Min	Rain
Belagavi	27.4	20.4	1.4
Bidar	27	20	31
Vijayapura	30	21	03
Dharwad	28.6	NA	00
Haveri	25	21	00
Kalaburagi	30.4	22.6	0.2
Raichur	31	23	00
COASTAL			
Honnavar	30.1	26.5	3.1
Karwar	32.2	25	0.5
Shirali	NA	NA	NA
Mangaluru	30.2	23.4	2.3

INTERIOR SOUTH			
Stations	Max	Min	Rain
Agumbe	NA	NA	90.5
Bengaluru	27.9	20.5	1.9
Ballari	NA	NA	NA
Chamarajanagar	30.9	21.3	00
Chikkamagaluru	NA	NA	NA
Chitradurga	28.9	20.4	00
Davangere	28	20	00
Hassan	27.2	20	00
Mysuru	29	20	00
Madikeri	NA	NA	NA
Kolar	29.2	19.6	2.6
OTHER STATIONS			
New Delhi	35.3	23.8	00
Kolkata	31.2	25	63
Mumbai	27.2	24.2	17
Chennai	32	24.8	0.8
Pune	27.2	20	16
Hyderabad	30.2	21.4	38
Th'puram	33	25	0.5

10 killed as record overnight rain lashes Kolkata

Rain, From Page 1

The city received by 251.4 mm of rainfall, mostly overnight, the highest since 1986 and the sixth-highest single-day downpour in the last 137 years.

Babu Kundu, a fruit vendor pedalling through waist-deep water, touched a roadside light post and was electrocuted like most of the nine other victims.

The deluge hardly spared any part of the city.

A large number of Durga Puja pandals were damaged. "It took a couple of months to erect and decorate the pandal. How can we undo the damage with just four days left before the Shashti (September 28, the beginning of the festival)," Ardhendu Roy, one of the organisers of a Durga Puja in New Town, said.

"I express my deepest condolences to the families who lost their kin on account of the negligence of the CESC (Calcutta Electric Supply Company)," Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee wrote on X, blaming the city's electrical utility run by RP-Sanjiv Goenka Group. She said that a member of the family of each victims would be provided with government employment. She also urged the CESC to pay additional compensation.

With the public transport system severely disrupted, the chief minister asked the non-essential government employees to work from home. She also asked educational institutions, run by the state government, to start the Durga Puja vacation from Tuesday, instead of Saturday.

Mamata also blamed the Damodar Valley Corporation, a statutory corporation under the Union Ministry of Power. "The state was already reeling under floods, and its rivers and canals were filled due to the unilateral water release by the DVC."

As the opposition BJP and the CPM slammed the Trinamool Congress, Mamata accused them of trying to take advantage of the natural disaster.

Meet in B'luru to seek SIT probe into D'sthala unnatural deaths

MANGALURU, DHNS: Dharmasthala Daurjanya Vedike will organise a 'Nyaya Samavesha' at Freedom Park in Bengaluru on September 25. In a video release, activist Jayanth T said that the convention aims to demand an SIT probe into all major cases, including murders of Sowjanya, Vedavalli, Padmalatha and a mahout in Dharmasthala.

"We will also demand that all unnatural deaths in Dharmasthala and Belthangady police station limits should be handed over to SIT," he said.

Thimarody externed

Puttur Assistant Commissioner Stella Varghese has issued an externment order against activist and Rashtriya Hindu Jagarana Vedike president, Mahesh Shetty Thimarody, from Dakshina Kannada district for one year. He has been ordered to move to Raichur.

DK SP Dr Arun K said Thimarody will be allowed to enter the district only when required by police or court authorities.

ಕೃಷಿ ಮಾರಾಟ ಇಲಾಖೆ
ಕೃಷಿ ಉತ್ಪನ್ನ ಮಾರುಕಟ್ಟೆ ಸಮಿತಿ
ಮಹಾತ್ಮ ಗಾಂಧಿ ಸಂಕೀರ್ಣ, ಮಾರುಕಟ್ಟೆ ಪ್ರಾಂಗಣ, ಯಶವಂತಪುರ,
ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು – 560022. ದೂರವಾಣಿ ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ: 080–23472850/23371695
ಇ–ಮೇಲ್: apmcbangalore22@gmail.com

ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ: ಕೃಉಮಾಸ/ಬೆಂ/2881/ಸ್ವಚ್ಛತೆ/2025–26 ದಿನಾಂಕ: 20–09–2025

ಮರು ಸಂಕ್ಷಿಪ್ತ ಇ–ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಪ್ರಕಟಣೆ

2025–26 ನೇ ಸಾಲಿಗೆ ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು ಕೃಷಿ ಉತ್ಪನ್ನ ಮಾರುಕಟ್ಟೆ ಸಮಿತಿಯ ಯಶವಂತಪುರ ಮುಖ್ಯ ಮಾರುಕಟ್ಟೆ ಪ್ರಾಂಗಣ, ದಾಸನಪುರ ಉಪ ಮಾರುಕಟ್ಟೆ ಹಾಗೂ ಯಲಹಂಕ ರೈತರ ಸಂತೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ದಿನನಿತ್ಯ ಶೇಖರಣೆಯಾಗುವ ಕಸವನ್ನು ಸ್ವಚ್ಛಗೊಳಿಸಿ ಪ್ರಾಂಗಣದಿಂದ ಆಯಾ ದಿನವೇ ದಾಸನಪುರ ಉಪ ಮಾರುಕಟ್ಟೆ ಪ್ರಾಂಗಣದ ಘನತ್ಯಾಜ್ಯ ನಿರ್ವಹಣಾ ಘಟಕಕ್ಕೆ ಸಾಗಾಣಿಕೆ ಮಾಡಲು ಹಾಗೂ ದಾಸನಪುರ ಉಪ ಮಾರುಕಟ್ಟೆ ಪ್ರಾಂಗಣದ ಘನತ್ಯಾಜ್ಯ ಘಟಕ ನಿರ್ವಹಣೆಗಾಗಿ ಅರ್ಹ ಹಾಗೂ ಅನುಭವ ಹೊಂದಿದ ಸಂಸ್ಥೆ ಏಜೆನ್ಸಿಯಿಂದ ಕನಿಷ್ಠ ವೇತನ ಕಾಯ್ದೆಗಳನ್ವಯ ಇ–ಪ್ರೊಕ್ಯೂರ್‌ಮೆಂಟ್ ಮುಖಾಂತರ ವೆಬ್‌ಸೈಟ್: https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in ನಲ್ಲಿ ಪ್ರಕಟಿಸಿರುವಂತೆ ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಕರೆಯಲಾಗಿದೆ. (Tender No: APMC/2025-26/SE0745) ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಸಲ್ಲಿಸಲು ಕೊನೆಯ ದಿನಾಂಕ: 24–10–2025 ರಂದು ಸಂಜೆ 4.30 ಗಂಟೆಯವರೆಗೆ. ಹೆಚ್ಚಿನ ಮಾಹಿತಿಗಾಗಿ ಈ ಕಛೇರಿಯ ದೂರವಾಣಿ ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ: 080–23472850 ನ್ನು ಸಂಪರ್ಕಿಸಬಹುದು.

ಸಹಿ/– ಕಾರ್ಯದರ್ಶಿ
ಕೃಉಮಾಸ, ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು
ವಾಸಾಸಂ೨/ವಾ.ಪ್ರ/2937/ಆಡಳಿತ/2025–26
ಸಹಿ/– ಆಡಳಿತಾಧಿಕಾರಿಗಳು
ಕೃಉಮಾಸ, ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು

Mahila Dasara showcases women's strides to self-empowerment

Women SHGs hope to do brisk business at exclusive expo

GAYATHRI V RAJ
MYSURU, DHNS

The J K Grounds in Mysuru was full of activity, with the launch of Mahila Dasara by Women and Child Development Minister Laxmi Hebbalkar on Tuesday.

Mahila Dasara turned out to be a platform for women to move towards self-empowerment.

Women, members of various self-help groups (SHG) from across Mysuru district and other districts, have set up stalls.

Almost all products required by women are available at one place. Women entrepreneurs, under the banner of Stree Shakti Sanghas from Mysuru, Nanjangud, Channapatna taluk (Bengaluru South district), Tumakuru, Mandya, and Hassan districts have set up more than 100 stalls.

A participant draws a colourful piece during the rangoli contest organised by the department of women and child development in front of the Mysuru palace on Tuesday. DH PHOTO

From imitation jewellery, jute bags, sling bags, hand bags made of cotton, clutch bags, purses, clay pottery, sarees, food products, readymade mixes, chakkuli, nippattu, papads made of garlic, chilli, ragi, and many more items are available.

Mahalakshmi of Sanjeevini Mahalakshmi Stree Shakti Sangha, Bengaluru, told *DH* that they had displayed a variety of cotton sarees, as there is always a great demand for them. "We hope for good business this year," she said.

Sri Chamundeshwari Garments of Mysuru had a variety of readymade blouses of latest trends. "More materials will come tomorrow," said Shubha at the stall.

Cultural programmes have been organised on all days at the venue. Around 50 stalls were open on the first day. Workers were busy giving power connections and other facilities at the stalls yet to come up on the other half of the venue.

Hebbalkar said women should become self-reliant, so that they become financially independent.

"There are various government programmes for women and they should make the most of them," the minister said.

In her inaugural speech, Hebbalkar said Chief Minister Siddaramaiah had implemented five guarantee schemes to make crores of women empowered.

"Women are not confined to their homes now. They are working with self-respect. From tying strings of flowers to working for India's moon mission Chandrayaan, women have done it all," she said.

"Even men are extending support to women. Writer Banu Mushtaq and her translator Deepa Basthi winning the International Booker Prize is a matter of pride," she added.

The minister visited the stalls and wished the women all success. Vice-chairperson of Karnataka State Guarantee Schemes Implementation Committee Pushpa Amarnath and others were present.

ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಸರಕಾರ
ಲೋಕೋಪಯೋಗಿ ಇಲಾಖೆ ಧಾರವಾಡ ವಿಭಾಗ, ಧಾರವಾಡ
ಕಾರ್ಯನಿರ್ವಾಹಕ ಇಂಜನೀಯರವರ ಕಚೇರಿ ಲೋಕೋಪಯೋಗಿ ಇಲಾಖೆ, ಧಾರವಾಡ ವಿಭಾಗ, ಧಾರವಾಡ

ಕ್ರಸಂ: ಕಾನಿಇಂಧಾ/ಗುತ್ತಿಗೆ/ಪಿ.ಬಿ.–1,2,5/2025–26/2858 ದಿನಾಂಕ: 23–09–2025

ಟೆಂಡರ ಪ್ರಕಟಣೆ I.F.T – KW – 1,2,3 &4

ಇ–ಪ್ರೊಕ್ಯೂರ್‌ಮೆಂಟ್ ಮೂಲಕ ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಪ್ರಕಟಣೆ ಸ್ಟ್ಯಾಂಡರ್ಡ್ ಡಾಕ್ಯೂಮೆಂಟ್ ಮುಖಾಂತರ

ಕಾರ್ಯನಿರ್ವಾಹಕ ಇಂಜಿನೀಯರರು, ಲೋಕೋಪಯೋಗಿ ಇಲಾಖೆ, ಧಾರವಾಡರವರು ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ರಾಜ್ಯಪಾಲರ ಪರವಾಗಿ ಕೆ.ಟಿ.ಪಿ.ಪಿ ಎಕ್ಟ 2000 ರನ್ವಯ ಮತ್ತು ಸ್ಟ್ಯಾಂಡರ್ಡ್ ಡಾಕ್ಯೂಮೆಂಟ್ ಕೆ ಡಬ್ಲ್ಯೂ–1,2,3&4 ರ ನಿಯಮದಂತೆ ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಸರ್ಕಾರದ ಕೆ.ಪಿ.ಪಿ.ಪಿ. kppp.karnataka.gov.in ಪೋರ್ಟಲ್ ಮೂಲಕ ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಪ್ರಕಟಣೆ. ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಲೋಕೋಪಯೋಗಿ ಇಲಾಖೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ನೋಂದಣಿ ಮಾಡಿದ ಅರ್ಹ ಗುತ್ತಿಗೆದಾರರಿಂದ ಎಕ–ಲಕೋಟೆ/ದ್ವಿ–ಲಕೋಟೆ ಪದ್ಧತಿಯಲ್ಲಿ ಲೆಕ್ಕಶೀರ್ಷಿಕೆ: 5054–04–337–0–01–154 ಜಿಲ್ಲಾ ಮತ್ತು ಇತರೆ ರಸ್ತೆ ಸುಧಾರಣೆ, 4059–80–051–0–29–386 ಇಲಾಖಾ ಕಟ್ಟಡಗಳ ನಿರ್ಮಾಣ, 3054–04–337–1–10–200 ಜಿಲ್ಲಾ ಮುಖ್ಯ ರಸ್ತೆ ನಿರ್ವಹಣೆ, CSR COAL INDIA ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಗಳಿಗೆ ಕನಿಷ್ಠ ಮೊತ್ತ ರೂ. 2.51 ಲಕ್ಷದಿಂದ ಗರಿಷ್ಠ ರೂ. 300.00 ಲಕ್ಷಗಳ ವರೆಗೆ ಟೆಂಡರಗಳನ್ನು ಅಹ್ವಾನಿಸಲಾಗಿದೆ. ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಗಳ ವಿವರ ಈ ಕೆಳಗಿನಂತಿದೆ.

1) ಸಾಮಾನ್ಯ: PWD/2024-25/BD/WORK_INDENT10679/Call-2
PWD/2024-25/BD/WORK_INDENT16551 PWD/2024-25/RD/WORK_INDENT17735/Call-4
PWD/2024-25/RD/WORK_INDENT17354/Call-4 PWD/2024-25/RD/WORK_INDENT17231/Call-4
PWD/2024-25/RD/WORK_INDENT17349/Call-6 PWD/2025-26/RD/WORK_INDENT22702
PWD/2025-26/RD/WORK_INDENT22686 PWD/2025-26/RD/WORK_INDENT22688
PWD/2025-26/RD/WORK_INDENT26390 PWD/2025-26/RD/WORK_INDENT22667
PWD/2025-26/RD/WORK_INDENT22668 PWD/2025-26/RD/WORK_INDENT27826
PWD/2025-26/RD/WORK_INDENT27458
Calander of Events:
1) ಪ್ರಿ ಬಿಡ್ ಮಿಟಿಂಗ್/ಆಕ್ಷೇಪಣೆಯನ್ನು ಸಲ್ಲಿಸುವ ಕೊನೆಯ ದಿನಾಂಕ: 23–10–2025 ಬೆಳಿಗ್ಗೆ 12:30 ಗಂಟೆಯವರೆಗೆ
2) ಗುತ್ತಿಗೆ ಪತ್ರಗಳನ್ನು ಸ್ವೀಕರಿಸುವ ಕೊನೆಯ ದಿನಾಂಕ: 24–10–2025 ಸಾಯಂಕಾಲ 04:00 ಗಂಟೆಯವರೆಗೆ
3) ತಾಂತ್ರಿಕ ಬಿಡ್ ತೆರೆಯುವ ದಿನಾಂಕ: 27–10–2025 ಸಾಯಂಕಾಲ 04:30 ಗಂಟೆಯ ನಂತರ
4) ಆರ್ಥಿಕ ಬಿಡ್ ತೆರೆಯುವ ದಿನಾಂಕ: 30–10–2025 ಸಾಯಂಕಾಲ 04:30 ಗಂಟೆಯ ನಂತರ

2) ಸಾಮಾನ್ಯ: PWD/2025-26/BD/WORK_INDENT27736
Calander of Events:
1) ಪ್ರಿ ಬಿಡ್ ಮಿಟಿಂಗ್/ಆಕ್ಷೇಪಣೆಯನ್ನು ಸಲ್ಲಿಸುವ ಕೊನೆಯ ದಿನಾಂಕ: 08–10–2025 ಬೆಳಿಗ್ಗೆ 12:30 ಗಂಟೆಯವರೆಗೆ
2) ಗುತ್ತಿಗೆ ಪತ್ರಗಳನ್ನು ಸ್ವೀಕರಿಸುವ ಕೊನೆಯ ದಿನಾಂಕ: 09–10–2025 ಸಾಯಂಕಾಲ 04:00 ಗಂಟೆಯವರೆಗೆ
3) ತಾಂತ್ರಿಕ ಬಿಡ್ ತೆರೆಯುವ ದಿನಾಂಕ: 10–10–2025 ಸಾಯಂಕಾಲ 04:30 ಗಂಟೆಯ ನಂತರ
4) ಆರ್ಥಿಕ ಬಿಡ್ ತೆರೆಯುವ ದಿನಾಂಕ: 13–10–2025 ಸಾಯಂಕಾಲ 04:30 ಗಂಟೆಯ ನಂತರ

3) ಸಾಮಾನ್ಯ: CAT(II)A
PWD/2025-26/RD/WORK_INDENT23596/Call-2 PWD/2025-26/RD/WORK_INDENT23660/Call-2
PWD/2025-26/RD/WORK_INDENT23868/CALL2
Calander of Events:
1) ಪ್ರಿ ಬಿಡ್ ಮಿಟಿಂಗ್/ಆಕ್ಷೇಪಣೆಯನ್ನು ಸಲ್ಲಿಸುವ ಕೊನೆಯ ದಿನಾಂಕ: 30–09–2025 ಬೆಳಿಗ್ಗೆ 12:30 ಗಂಟೆಯವರೆಗೆ
2) ಗುತ್ತಿಗೆ ಪತ್ರಗಳನ್ನು ಸ್ವೀಕರಿಸುವ ಕೊನೆಯ ದಿನಾಂಕ: 03–10–2025 ಸಾಯಂಕಾಲ 04:00 ಗಂಟೆಯವರೆಗೆ
3) ತಾಂತ್ರಿಕ ಬಿಡ್ ತೆರೆಯುವ ದಿನಾಂಕ: 04–10–2025 ಸಾಯಂಕಾಲ 04:30 ಗಂಟೆಯ ನಂತರ
4) ಆರ್ಥಿಕ ಬಿಡ್ ತೆರೆಯುವ ದಿನಾಂಕ: 06–10–2025 ಸಾಯಂಕಾಲ 04:30 ಗಂಟೆಯ ನಂತರ

ಈ ಮೇಲ್ಕಾಣಿಸಿದ ಎಲ್ಲಾ ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಗಳಿಗೆ ಸಂಬಂದಿಸಿದ ವಿವರಗಳನ್ನು ಅಂತರಜಾಲ ವಿಳಾಸ kppp.karnataka.gov.in ದಲ್ಲಿ ಹಾಗೂ ಲೋಕೊಪಯೋಗಿ ಇಲಾಖೆ ಧಾರವಾಡ ವಿಭಾಗ ಕಚೇರಿಯಿಂದ ಕಚೇರಿಯ ವೇಳೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ಪಡೆಯಬಹುದಾಗಿರುತ್ತದೆ.

ಸಹಿ/– ಕಾರ್ಯನಿರ್ವಾಹಕ ಇಂಜಿನೀಯರರು,
ವಾ.ಸಾ.ಇ/ಧಾರವಾಡ/700/ದೇಶಪಾಂಡೆಪಬ್ಲಿಸಿಟಿ/2025–26
ಲೋಕೋಪಯೋಗಿ ಇಲಾಖೆ, ಧಾರವಾಡ ವಿಭಾಗ, ಧಾರವಾಡ.

FIITJEE : A Chronicle of an Unconquered Flame (1992 – Forever)

In 1992, D.K. Goel, a young B.Tech Graduate from the IIT Delhi with less than ten thousand rupees set out to change the '**Informal Education**' by making students learn '**The Art**' behind '**The Science of Success**' and run education with world class quality practices emulating Reputed Global Industries. Thus, FIITJEE was born. **This is his story. This is the FIITJEE story.**

From South Delhi's humble, striving land,
A dream was born from a founder's hand;
Not wealth, not power, nor fleeting fame,
But to serve the child — heart and brain.

One great result may come by chance,
But decades of triumph are not by fluke;
Toppers crowned in cities and states,
Unmatched glory none could abate.

All-India Ranks, Olympiad golds,
AIR 1, 2, 3 many times retold.
No rival could such laurels claim,
FIITJEE carved its eternal name.

Yet success, like Caesar's laurel crown,
Attracts the daggers that drag men down;
Whispers spread in jealous breath,
Wishing glory be turned to death.

As Caesar fell to one traitor's knife,
FIITJEE too was assailed in life;
Just one Brutus ended Caesar's flame,
But many Brutuses can not erase our name.

Managing Partners, once sworn to stand,
Broke the trust with a treacherous hand;
Foes connived with them, sought to deceive
To steal the results, they did not achieve.

Newspapers & TV thundered, rivals mocked,
Whispers sharpened, accusations stocked;
Yet truth, though buried, did not decay,
It waited patient for brighter day.

Motivated complaints, FIRs and raids,
Headlines blazing, false charges made;
But no parchment bore a crime in fact,
For truth withstands the harshest test.

Accusations raged, headlines screamed,
The end of FIITJEE — or so it seemed.
Even as Brutuses circled with knives,
Our shield was the students' transformed lives.

Mothers and fathers, worried and torn,
Demanded the future their children had sworn;
Their voices rose in the public square,
And FIITJEE listened — for society we care.

Aspirants scattered, midstream in flight,
Turning to rivals to salvage their plight;
Yet many remembered, in silence and tears,
The rigor of FIITJEE that shaped their years.

Kallen and Kakash, hit banners high,
Proclaimed dominion beneath the sky;
Yet names and noise cannot enthrone,
What decades of labour alone have sown.

Accounts searched, the agencies pried,
But truth stood firm, the lies denied.
For values serve as a fortress wall,
And truth outlasts the fiercest squall.

Though centres closed, and trust was strained,
Slowly the lifeblood was regained;
Online flames lit, classrooms revived,
The spirit of FIITJEE again survived.

The Founder stood in the tempest's roar,
Unbent, unbroken, resolved once more;
"Never against society will I stand—
Truth, transparency, commitment-my guiding hand.

A moment of anger, a word let slip,
Seized by the mob with a tightening grip;
Yet character cannot by a moment be slain,
For decades of service still remain.

No hatred burnt, no vengeance sought,
For service alone was the Founder's thought.
Against betrayal, his oath was plain:
From pain, new strength we shall regain.

Society's guard we vowed to be,
Protecting its children, keeping them free;
In every rank, in each success,
Our purpose is service—nothing less.

Though scattered afar, the memory stayed,
Of rigor unmatched, of systems made.
Proof that FIITJEE is larger than place,
It's a system, a culture, a relentless pace.

One Brutus may stab, but Rome did not die,
And so FIITJEE lifts its head to the sky;
Brutuses many may conspire and scheme,
But cannot destroy a people's dream.

"Where shall our children's future go?"
The answer came: "With us, you know.
Your trust we'll guard, your hope we'll keep,
Your children's tomorrow is ours to reap."

Now brighter burns the FIITJEE fire,
Forged in betrayal, tempered by ire;
Yet calm it shines, in steady hand,
A beacon of truth across the land.

Yes, mistakes and delays were made,
Yet from the ashes a path was laid.
Glorifire shines, new models awake,
The mission lives for society's sake.

With a new design, a phoenix in flight,
Catena of Franchise to spread the light;
India and beyond, horizons wide,
FIITJEE's promise will never subside.

Franchisees, Build for your children's children to see.
Standards that outlast market spree.
Lighthouses don't blink; they simply be—
let FIITJEE's light define your legacy.

Remember the toppers, the rankers, the crown,
The Olympiad medals, the national renown;
Many times AIR 1, 2, 3 in our fold,
Such legends cannot by envy be sold.

Not trumpet loud nor banner bright,
But a whisper clear in the dead of night:
Extraordinary souls, come take your place,
And carry forward this timeless grace.

And judge us not by a storm-tossed year,
But by decades of triumph, steady and clear;
For FIITJEE was, and always shall be,
Unconquerable and eternal, the captain of its soul.

Please see the next page...

Society's guard we vow to be; Shaping the future, setting it free. Through storm and trial, through shadow and pain; FIITJEE's promise will still remain.

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FIITJEE is not just an Institution of Substance

FIITJEE is a thought that is ordained to transform the Education Landscape in India

FIITJEE Founder led from the front and FIITJEE helped students performing at average & below average level in their school become not just successful but also top rankers in IIT-JEE (JEE Advanced).

To provide stress free education to children, he created Integrated School Programs. He became 'The Torch Bearer' for transforming the Education Landscape through series of strategic innovations and created standards of excellence in every area of operation. Innovation is the root of evolution of any industry. FIITJEE founder's passion for changing lives of the students by unravelling their full potential and inculcating traits for success is unmatched. Innovations to public service messages, building awareness in parents, students, educators, policy makers – Business was not business to him but more about public service. You may not know but several of his innovations & practices have been adopted by all other coaching institutes, mostly without any change. Every player in the coaching industry needs "a bit of FIITJEE DNA to survive & thrive". To learn about all the innovations of the FIITJEE founder, you can take this fun Quiz by scanning this QR code. You may even get a surprise gift too.

FIITJEE became a leader in IIT-JEE (JEE Advanced) training in just 5 years by producing not just All India Topper from its Long Term Classroom Program but also producing Highest Selections in the country in 1997. With the continued thrust on student services, soon students & parents started recognising FIITJEE as **"The Most Powerful Brand in Serious Education"** and hitherto unorganised sector got a direction to change into an organised industry.

To carry forward this great work through expansion beyond Delhi, he propounded Mission, Vision and Guiding Principles. He never compromised on these principles, come what may. Now these very principles need to be re-emphasised across the FIITJEE Universe. Therefore, you must be completely aligned with these to work for any position across the FIITJEE Universe. Please scan the QR code and download these Mission, Vision and Guiding Principles that will redefine the culture in the Education Industry.

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Bengaluru must not settle for mediocrity

Deputy Chief Minister D K Shivakumar is right on one count: potholes are not unique to Bengaluru. Mumbai, India's financial capital, struggles with cratered roads; New Delhi has them too. He notes that the Centre's support has waned. Under the UPA's Jawaharlal Nehru National Urban Renewal Mission, Karnataka received substantial funds for urban infrastructure. The discontinuation of the scheme by the BJP government has hurt cities like Bengaluru. He also highlights how a section of the media, politicians, and even some corporate leaders seem eager to deride Bengaluru at every opportunity. According to him, there is an ecosystem that thrives on magnifying the city's setbacks. Shivakumar has gone a step further by alleging that the potholes are being "politicised" and used as a conspiracy against the Congress government. Politics, however, is not unique to Bengaluru; it permeates every other city. The difference is that Bengaluru is in the spotlight because it is India's technology hub, a city of global consequence. When its infrastructure falters, the world notices. Blaming the media or critics is to shoot the messenger instead of accepting responsibility and addressing the rot.

Deflecting blame on poor infrastructure is a familiar political game. The city deserves better

But does this mean Bengaluru should resign itself to this state of affairs? Should the city that powers India's IT revolution, a city that hosts hundreds of global technology firms and startups, be content to wallow in the same dysfunction that afflicts other major cities? The answer is a resounding no. Pointing to Mumbai or Delhi does not fill the potholes on Bengaluru's streets. The reality is that the city's roads have been in disrepair for decades, and no party – Congress, BJP or JD(S) – has managed to fix them. Each election brings lofty promises of a "pothole-free" city, but every monsoon exposes the emptiness of those assurances. Citing financial constraints cannot explain away decades of neglect, nor can they absolve successive state governments of their responsibility.

What Bengaluru needs is not more excuses but a bold reimagining of urban mobility. Building more flyovers and wider roads only encourages more cars and worsens congestion. Instead, the government must prioritise public transport: expand the metro network rapidly, make it affordable, and integrate it seamlessly with buses. A city that leads India in innovation can certainly lead in urban solutions too. Yes, all Indian cities are broken in some measure. But Bengaluru should aspire higher. Just as Indore has become the gold standard in cleanliness, Bengaluru can and must set the benchmark for urban infrastructure. Excuses, however well-crafted, will not pave the way. Vision, commitment, and execution will.

Jailing farmers won't arrest pollution

The Supreme Court's suggestion that the government can consider prosecution of farmers who burn post-harvest crop stubble is unrealistic and might be seen as insensitive by many. Farmers in Punjab and Haryana burn the stubble in the winter months, contributing to air pollution in Delhi, which is already reeling under acute pollution, Uttar Pradesh, and their own states. Past attempts to check the burning of crop stubble have not succeeded. When it was pointed out that repeated court directives and government actions have not helped, the Court observed that putting "some people behind the bars" would send out the right message and might act as a deterrent. Action on these lines, however, may set a wrong precedent.

Arrests have been made in the past and hefty fines imposed. These measures have only alienated the farmers. The Commission for Air Quality Management, which has tried to enforce steps to control air pollution in the region, has exempted farmers from prosecution. Stubble burning is a layered problem with no quick-fix solutions. Alternatives such as industrial use of crop residue and smart stubble management have been mooted but they are yet to make headway. Farmers see stubble burning as part of their operational cycle. Deploying manual labour or machinery to dispose of the residue is not economical for small-scale farmers who constitute a large part of the community in the region. They note that the existing solutions are not sustainable and have failed to ease the pressure on them. In Punjab, most of the crop residue management machines have remained unused due to their high diesel consumption and cumbersome operation. New solutions must be affordable and easy for the farmers to adopt. While devising technological solutions involves challenges, administrative layers add to the problem.

Prosecuting farmers who burn crop stubble offers no solution to a systemic problem

Even as stubble burning is being addressed at some levels, other sources of pollution remain largely unchecked. Vehicular pollution, industrial pollution, extensive construction activities, and unscientific waste management have posed serious threats. Some of these have been found more threatening to the environment – polluting air all through the year – than stubble burning, which remains a largely seasonal problem. The administration has been found wanting in cracking down on pollution sources in the cities, which validates the farmers' allegations that an 'urban bias' is in play against the stubble burners. A policy of prosecution and confrontation will not yield results. What is required is a focussed, multi-pronged strategy towards sustainable solutions. Furthermore, the farmers should be extended all support in adapting to the new ways.

BROKEN PROMISE

Shock and awe: India has its H-1B reckoning

An overreliance on the visa distracted us from innovation. What was pitched as opportunity is now a trap

JAGDISH RATTANANI

The September 19 presidential order imposing a fee of $100,000 per H-1B visa entry stands as one more assault on an edifice that, on the surface, looked rock-solid only a year ago. The order hits India hard, even if that is not its intention, and will deliver shock, pain, and a host of challenges that cannot hide behind empty bravado. The magnitude of the disruption, its potential to derail one of India's largest employers, the vast IT services sector, and its likely impact on the wider economy give cause for worry.

A 2019 study, the latest available, by the US Citizenship and Immigration Services, put the number of H-1B visa holders at 583,420 (total H-1B authorised-to-work population) as of September 30, 2019. Broadly, it has been estimated that the total H-1B population with family and dependents in the US now is over one million. With an estimated three-quarters Indian, this gives the magnitude of the problem and the India-centric nature of the disruption. The late clarification that the fees will affect only new visas (85,000 are added every year) and that existing H-1Bs will not be impacted has calmed some nerves, but the climate of uncertainty remains, given the ambiguity written into the proclamation. India's Ministry of External Affairs has correctly pointed out that the action will lead to "humanitarian consequences" for the workers and their families. Even if existing workers are not impacted, their future remains in doubt as their H-1Bs, issued for three years at a time, come up for renewal. Sudden announcements like these mar trust and will force a withdrawal of workers over time, with complex and unforeseen consequences.

The heartburn in the US on the H-1B among both Republicans and Democrats has been growing, a reflection of the concern that the programme is being used to replace American workers with foreign-born workers to cut labour costs rather than to attract talent where required, as was the professed intention of the quota. Consider that in 2023, under President Biden, Republican and Democratic senators introduced bipartisan legislation to reform the H-1B. Their goal: "to protect workers and stop outsourcing of American jobs." The resentment is well captured in the presidential order that imposed the hefty fee: "To take advantage of artificially low labour costs incentivised by the programme, companies close their IT divisions, fire their American staff, and outsource IT jobs to lower-paid foreign workers... Further, the abuse of the H-1B visa programme has made it even more challenging for college graduates trying to find IT jobs, allowing employers

to hire foreign workers at a significant discount to American workers."

While India will suffer, the problem has largely been caused more recently by large US corporations working the visa to their advantage to cut costs. Indian companies in the US have, in recent years, reduced dependence on the H-1B and have instead shifted to hiring US workers, and so the H-1B is less of a challenge, though the changing climate will impact the entire sector negatively. During 2010-2025, Indian IT companies topped the list with the highest number of H-1B workers ("beneficiaries approved" for the given years) in the US – TCS, Cognizant, Infosys, Wipro. But just one Indian company (TCS) is in the top 10 list by number of H-1B visas approved in the first half of 2025, according to the US data hub on H-1Bs. All others are US-based giants – Amazon, Microsoft, Meta, Apple, Google, J P Morgan Chase, Wal-Mart, Deloitte Consulting.

This tells us that the problem was coming, that the Indian firms have responded in some measure, but the forces unleashed in the process have taken on a life of their own and will now exact a price. The tinderbox of growing anti-immigrant sentiment, the extreme nature of MAGA politics and bitter political wars, along with mounting pressure on jobs for Americans, together make H-1B a sitting duck.

Costs of being a services leader

The Indian software and IT services giants have, for long, been accused of running body shops, a business fashioned out of what essentially is labour arbitrage turned into a fine art. The sector has consistently denied this, arguing that they have moved up the value chain and that they compete on quality, not price. There is some truth in both statements.

But there is no denying that almost three decades of growing business have brought little innovation – the Indian focus at its core is on providing services and handling accounts rather than leading innovation. India's IT services sector is notorious for pushing the hard grind. The generally exploitative nature of the work, the tightly controlled employee cost that, in some cases, has kept salaries unchanged over the years for freshers despite inflation, and a culture of stretch in the long haul produce zombies who can do no more than work at the lower end of the value chain. While the youth have spent their best years in this IT cage, many with the hope that they would move to the US, the few at the top have made money and acquired power. The outpouring of anger at outrageous remarks by a sector leader asking for 70-hour work weeks must be seen in this context.

India and Indian companies have been happy taking the low-hanging fruit. The H-1B was an opportunity, but it became a trap. It was a distraction from the work required to build new products and services that are the future of business. Altogether, India and the sector are nowhere in breakthrough work. We have served others well. Now they appear not to want us, and we may not know where to go. Meanwhile, the AI revolution takes the world by storm. These are some big worries as India negotiates the H-1B upheaval.

(The writer is a journalist and faculty member at SPJIMR; Syndicate: The Billion Press)

RIGHT IN THE MIDDLE

A teacher beyond textbooks

Dr HN embodied simplicity, integrity and fearless inquiry

RASHMI RAJ

It was my first day of high school when I first saw Padma Bhushan Dr H Narasimhaiah—affectionately known as Dr HN sir. A towering figure in education, a freedom fighter, and a social reformer, he walked in wearing his signature white khadi *kurta*, *dhoti*, and Gandhi *topi*. Whatever the occasion or weather, his attire never changed—a quiet testament to his simplicity.

As he addressed the crowd of young students, his opening words were: "Please oblige me, as I have to sit and talk before such a huge crowd comprising little boys and girls—I have an injury." Even in pain, his commitment to meet and inspire us was unwavering.

Many of us began arriving early to school just to catch a glimpse of Dr HN sir walking along the National High School (NHS) Basavanagudi entrance. I vividly remember one morning after Anil Kumble's historic 10-wicket haul against Pakistan, he beamed with pride, telling us, "Anil Kumble *avru namma huduga*" (Anil Kumble is our boy). He also fondly recalled his love for hockey.

Dr HN's passion for physics was infectious. His motto: "Never accept without questioning." He encouraged us to challenge superstition and think critically. One unforgettable moment was during a total solar eclipse. While many stayed indoors, fearing myths, he appeared on live television calmly eating lunch outside his hostel room—living proof of his rational beliefs.

He lived in a modest hostel room at National College Basavanagudi—just a mat, a cot, and books. He ate the same food as everyone else, never asking for special treatment. I once protested at home because my mother had made *upma* twice in a week. She gently reminded me, "Do you know Dr HN's favourite food is *upma*? When he studied in the US, he cooked and ate it three times a day for a year." Needless to say, I finished my breakfast.

Later, during my PU and degree years at National College Jayanagar, I saw him only on special occasions. He often joked in his speeches, "I was born on June 6. It was a Sunday—maybe that's why I don't get many holidays." His autobiography, *Horatada Haadi*, remains a guiding light for young minds.

Teacher's Day has passed this year, but it is never too late to bow my head in deep respect to Dr H Narasimhaiah—a teacher who taught far beyond textbooks. His life was a lesson in simplicity, integrity, and fearless inquiry. He didn't just teach physics; he taught us how to think, how to question, and how to live with purpose. As we celebrate the mentors who guide us, I remember Dr HN sir not just as an educator but as a beacon of values that continue to illuminate my path.

Thank you, sir—for being the teacher who never stopped teaching, even through silence. You are missed, remembered, and revered.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Dasara's inclusive spirit should continue to shine through

Regarding the Mysuru Dasara celebration, it is heartening to see the festival thriving as a shared cultural heritage of the state, rather than being confined to a single faith. The government's decision to invite Booker Prize-winning author Banu Mushtaq to inaugurate the festivities reaffirms the importance of inclusivity, as enshrined in our Constitution. The opposition to her presence was not only misplaced but also posed a threat to India's secular fabric. As the courts aptly pointed out, Dasara is a state celebration, and therefore, no one can be barred on religious grounds. The judicial intervention serves as a reminder that constitutional values take precedence over narrow political agendas. History provides ample evidence of Dasara's plural character. Attempts to distort Mushtaq's words or vilify her faith disregard this long-standing tradition of harmony. By resisting communal politics and celebrating diversity, Mysuru has once again demonstrated that the true spirit of festivals lies in unity, not division.

Vishal Mayur, Tumakuru

Drain on resources

The Supreme Court's order rejecting permission to erect a bronze statue of Karunanidhi in Valliyur, Tamil Nadu, is a welcome decision. This order will prevent unnecessary drain on the public exchequer. When in power, parties often desire to erect statues of their leaders or popular caste leaders at exorbitant costs, hoping to reap electoral benefits. This unhealthy competition continues in endless cycles, with a single statue potentially costing crores of rupees - equivalent to the budget allocation of an important ministry. Moreover, these statues are often erected in prominent locations, causing traffic congestion. Instead of squandering public money on statues, the central and state governments could consider naming institutions, universities, schemes, and public parks after deceased leaders.

S V Venkatakrishnan, Bengaluru

Opportunity for India

The one-time fee increase for H-1B visas to $100,000 by President Donald Trump, with the intention of curbing abuse that undermined national security by outsourcing firms that replace US workers with cheaper foreign labour, cannot be faulted. However, for India, skilled professionals who aspired to migrate to America may now find the door virtually closed . The reason talented professionals left our country was due to perceptions of poor working conditions, pay packages, lack of recognition of merit, and bureaucracy. This is an opportunity for Indian companies to refurbish their image and absorb talented professionals.

H R Bapu Satyanarayana, Mysuru

Our readers are welcome to email letters to: **letters@deccanherald.co.in** (only letters emailed – not handwritten – will be accepted). All letters must carry the sender's postal address and phone number.

SPEAK OUT

China and India are the primary funders of the ongoing war by continuing to purchase Russian oil.

Donald Trump, US President

I tell you, guilt dwells nowhere but in the eyes of the accuser.

R Scott Bakker

TO BE PRECISE

Season's sale!

IN PERSPECTIVE

In defence of the vote

The threat of disenfranchisement widens trust gaps, raising the pitch of questions on institutional integrity

REHNAMOL RAVEENDRAN

While the majority of the African-Americans in the United States of America were struggling for the right to vote, India went through a silent revolution of universal adult franchise on January 26 1950. On that day, India's entire adult population, which was 82% illiterate, was granted the right to enter the electoral rolls.

For the African-Americans who went through a long agitation and pitched street battles, it took another 15 years to enter the rolls in 1965. Hardly 30 years before India enfranchised all its women at one stroke, American suffragists had to suffer arrests, imprisonment, and humiliation before they won the right to vote in 1920. British suffragists, who went through a long agitation and faced similar humiliations, won their rights in 1928.

During the same time, in colonial India, there was never an agitation demanding the right to vote. It was B R Ambedkar who consistently raised the banner of universal adult franchise since 1919 and sought the right to vote for every Indian before the British government. A restricted right to vote was granted in 1932 by the British Lothian Franchise Committee with conditions linked to property and education. Only 13.4% of the adult Indian population was enfranchised.

Ambedkar's campaign for universal franchise was met with apprehensions during the making of the Constitution. Even after independence, and till the time the Constitution was adopted on November 26, 1949, there was no popular agitation seeking universal franchise. Ambedkar's Constitution handed over the right to vote on a platter to Indians without a struggle, unlike the independence they achieved.

The Indian voters exercised their franchise 18 times since 1951 for the Lok Sabha and, on average, 17 elections for legislative assemblies in states like Bihar and Uttar Pradesh. These elections apart, local body polls, especially to the panchayats, have held immense significance. The voters, while exercising their right to vote, continue to face difficulties linked to administrative shortcomings. Dalits, tribals, the weaker sections of society, and women have been at the receiving end. The country has navigated decades of elections marked by vote rigging and the capturing of polling stations. In the villages, upper caste women rarely came out to vote; women's votes used to be polled by members of their families till photo identity-based electoral rolls were introduced. Dalits were invariably prevented from polling or reaching the polling stations, despite the Indian Penal Code having a separate list of offences related to elections.

The heat is on ECI

But never has India's electorate been as threatened as it is now, with the distinct possibility of disenfranchisement. The Voter Adhikar Yatra, launched by the opposition parties in Bihar, came amid the backdrop of this threat. The yatra was also designed as a political campaign in the poll-bound state, but what it essentially aimed to address was this lurking fear – of losing the right to vote.

That the right can be diminished and that political disenfranchisement is a reality is a realisation that hits hard. This is no longer about innocuous clerical errors that lead to the deletion of names from the electoral rolls. This is about deliberate attempts at disenfranchisement that bring to the fore the urgency of ensuring the right to exist in the electoral rolls. Ambedkar's one-person-one-vote-one-value equation appears to be resonating in the hinterlands of Bihar. The resistance targets the constitutional gate-keeper entrusted with the conduct of elections in the country, the Election Commission of India (ECI), and the dispensation of the day, led by the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP).

After the right to vote became a reality, it was about putting the administrative and logistic systems in place to hold elections that are rooted to this basic, legal right. It is on the ECI to ensure accountability in the process, and at the centre of this exercise is the preparation of electoral rolls.

Beyond the political stakes and ramifications, the Voter Adhikar Yatra has also been an expression of mistrust in the constitutional bodies of the country. India cannot afford to place its democratic credentials and the fundamental idea of citizenship under this shadow of misgivings. The question is not about the trust deficit anymore – it is about ways to bridge the gap, about the urgency with which the trust needs to be restored.

India's voters, for the first time, are being mobilised to secure the idea of enfranchisement. The pushback, in its present form, has provided a spark for what could be a new suffragist moment in the country.

(The writer is an associate professor at the O P Jindal Global University, Sonipat)

IPM as imperative: Securing India's farms against climate, pest pressures

CHIRANTAN CHATTOPADHYAY

The Indian government has placed strong emphasis on agricultural production and farmer welfare, promoting sustainable solutions through a range of ambitious policies and initiatives. This was evident in the recent decision to reduce GST on agricultural equipment, biopesticides, and raw materials. Such measures are intended to boost productivity, ensure environmental sustainability, and improve farmer livelihoods, while also modernising agriculture to withstand the pressures of climate change, resource scarcity, and global market fluctuations. However, despite these top-down intentions, implementation remains weak — particularly in one of the most crucial areas of sustainability: crop protection.

Crop protection is central to agricultural sustainability. India loses 15–25% of its crops annually to pests such as weeds, insects, diseases, nematodes, and rodents—losses that translate into Rs 1.3–2 lakh crore ($15–$23 billion) each year. Pest management already accounts for 15–25% of input costs in farming, yet it rarely receives proportionate policy or extension support. Heavy dependence on chemical pesticides has led to serious ecological and economic consequences, including pest resistance, soil degradation, biodiversity loss, and harmful residues in food — threats to both farmer incomes and consumer health.

This is where Integrated Pest Management (IPM) offers a sustainable alternative. It advocates intelligent, judicious use of chemical pesticides—only when necessary—combined with other practices such as resistant varieties, cultural methods, and biological controls. The goal is to minimise economic losses, delay pest resistance to chemical pesticides, reduce environmental harm, and ensure food safety. Unlike blanket chemical spraying, IPM is precision-orientated and system-centric, designed to lower input costs, delay resistance, and protect ecosystems.

Biopesticides lie at the heart of IPM. Derived from living organisms or natural compounds, biopesticides disrupt pest cycles naturally without harming beneficial insects, soil health, or human beings. They are especially well-suited to India's diverse agro-climatic zones, where sustainable solutions are required to meet both local and export market standards. Although they may be costlier per unit and work more slowly than conventional pesticides, their long-term advantages are undeniable: they leave no hazardous residues, protect pollinators, sustain beneficial microbes, and align with rising global demand for residue-free produce.

The government recognises this and has increasingly highlighted IPM as a sustainable, science-based alternative. By reducing GST on biopesticides, the government has taken a meaningful step toward levelling the playing field between chemical and sustainable pest management options. However, while IPM may be central to sustainable agriculture in theory, in practice, its mainstream adoption remains alarmingly low. Despite its inclusion in government schemes and training modules, only 5.7% of Indian farmers currently use biopesticides, a key component of IPM—compared to 43% who rely heavily on synthetic chemicals.

This wide gap between policy ambition and field-level adoption exposes a structural weakness in implementation. The constraints are manifold. Barriers include weak extension services, limited availability of quality products, high regulatory costs for innovators, and rampant circulation of substandard or misbranded biopesticides that erode farmer confidence. More than 65% of marketed biopesticides are unregistered, chemically adulterated, or falsely labelled as "organic". This regulatory gap undermines trust in the system and restricts adoption.

To mainstream IPM, India needs a coherent policy and institutional framework. Regulatory approvals should be streamlined with faster, risk-tiered evaluations. Farmers must be assured of affordable access to high-quality, CIBRC-approved biopesticides. Extension networks—ranging from Farmers' Field Schools and Krishi Vigyan Kendras to digital platforms like pest surveillance systems—must be strengthened to provide real-time guidance. Markets should incentivise residue-free produce through certifications by NABL-accredited labs, ensuring farmers receive premium prices. Youth-led micro-enterprises under ICAR's ARYA scheme can help localise IPM input production, while robust public-private partnerships in research and development can accelerate innovation.

The continued ground-level neglect of IPM is leading to a missed opportunity for India. Persistent chemical dependence is degrading ecosystems, exposing farmers to health hazards, and risking trade rejections due to pesticide residues. In contrast, IPM offers a clear, practical, and sustainable path forward—but it must be backed by the will to reform how pest management is understood, supported, and delivered. Climate change adds further urgency. Rising temperatures, shifting rainfall patterns, and new invasive species are intensifying pest pressures while limiting the effectiveness of conventional pesticides. Many horticultural crops already lack approved chemical solutions, opening space for biopesticides to fill the gap. In this context, IPM is not merely an option but an imperative to secure India's agricultural future.

India today stands at a decisive moment. Continued dependence on chemical pesticides is proving costly to farmers, destructive to ecosystems, and hazardous to public health. IPM, by contrast, offers a proven, cost-effective, and sustainable pathway that aligns with both national priorities and global market expectations.

(The writer served as a principal scientist at the ICAR-Central Research Institute for Jute and Allied Fibres, West Bengal)

Even before the war in Gaza, negotiations failed to produce peace between the Israelis and the Palestinians

AARON BOXERMAN

DH ILLUSTRATION: DEEPAK HARICHANDAN

Europe recognises Palestine but two-state vision fades

France, Britain and the other countries recogniSing a Palestinian state this week say they aim to salvage whatever hope remains for the internationally backed formula to end the half-century-old conflict between Israelis and Palestinians: a Jewish state of Israel at peace with a neighbouring Palestinian one.

But nearly two years into the devastating war in the Gaza Strip, Israelis and Palestinians alike say the possibility of a two-state solution seems more remote than ever.

Israel's military campaign in Gaza has devastated the enclave. Israeli settlements have become ever more entrenched in the West Bank. In opinion polls, Hamas still commands greater support among Palestinians than the more moderate Palestinian leadership in the West Bank.

Many Israeli leaders, including Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, now dismiss the possibility of ever allowing Palestinian independence. In the absence of any other solution, that would leave Israel ruling over millions of Palestinians indefinitely.

"There will be no Palestinian state west of the Jordan River," Netanyahu said Sunday. "For years, I have prevented the establishment of this terrorist state facing tremendous pressures at home and abroad."

Partitioning the territory between the Jordan River and the Mediterranean Sea has long been a proposed solution to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict. The idea has formed the basis of multiple rounds of Israeli-Arab peace talks and United Nations resolutions.

In a nutshell, most proposals say the Palestinian state would be established in the territory Israel occupied in the Arab-Israeli war of 1967 — the West Bank, the Gaza Strip and Palestinian-majority neighbourhoods of Jerusalem — while Israel would remain in its internationally recognised borders.

Israeli and Palestinian critics question the justice, wisdom and feasibility of that approach. Many on both sides demand full control of the whole land, ruling out granting their rivals a state; only a small minority support a single, democratic state in which Palestinians and Israelis would have equal rights. In the 1990s and 2000s, Israeli and Palestinian negotiators held multiple rounds of talks that Palestinians hoped would lead to an independent state. As part of the Oslo Accords, they agreed to create the Palestinian Authority, which still administers some areas in the West Bank.

But the talks fell apart in the early 2000s, as Palestinian militant attacks against Israeli civilians surged. Israel responded with a major crackdown, sending tanks into larger Palestinian cities. The violence ultimately subsided, but the peace process was dealt a severe blow.

Israeli and Palestinian officials last held serious peace negotiations during the Obama administration. Those talks were overseen by the same leaders still in charge today: Netanyahu, Israel's longest-ruling prime minister; and Mahmoud Abbas, president of the Palestinian Authority.

The peace process was moribund for about a decade in the wake of those talks. Then came the Hamas-led attacks on southern Israel on October 7, 2023, which set off the war in Gaza and plunged Israelis and Palestinians into one of the deadliest chapters in their history.

As Israel's campaign in Gaza has razed swaths of the territory, the Israeli right has seized the opportunity to sharply expand Jewish settlements in the West Bank. About 500,000 Jewish settlers live in the territory alongside three million Palestinians.

Israeli settler leaders hope that, by deepening their hold in the West Bank, they can foreclose the possibility of a Palestinian state. The Israeli government advanced plans for more than 20,000 new housing units in the settlements in 2025 alone, according to Peace Now, a settlement watchdog.

Advocates for a two-state solution say that it would end Israel's occupation, which subjects Palestinians to a harsh life of checkpoints and Israeli raids. West Bank Palestinians cannot vote in Israeli elections, even though the government wields broad control over their lives.

The creation of a Palestinian state would also benefit Israelis, they say, by preserving Israel's character as a Jewish-majority democracy and putting an end to the cycle of violence that has dominated the region for decades.

But Israelis are sceptical that establishing such a state would end the conflict. After the 2023 attack, they often argue that any territorial withdrawal would invite further attacks on a smaller and weaker Israel.

They also point to the failure of previous talks, for which they blame Palestinian leaders. Palestinians argue that Israel was never serious about compromise.

In any case, Israeli leaders now freely assert that they will never allow a Palestinian state.

The New York Times

World leaders rally behind Palestine in challenge to US and Israel

Leaders from across the globe convened in New York on Monday to support Palestinian statehood, over opposition from Israel and the United States, as the Gaza Strip neared the two-year mark of a war that has brought mass death, destruction and hunger.

A summit meeting organised by France and Saudi Arabia before the annual United Nations General Assembly in New York was portrayed as an urgent effort to salvage the long-deferred vision of a two-state solution to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict. But as Israel continues its offensive in Gaza City against Hamas, and rapidly expands its settlements in the West Bank, the notion seems more distant than ever.

"We must pave the way for peace," French President Emmanuel Macron said, to applause from those at the meeting and a standing ovation from the Palestinian delegation. "Today, France recognises the state of Palestine." He noted recent statements of recognition, some not yet formalised, by Britain, Canada, Australia, Portugal, Belgium and several others.

The Israeli ambassador to the UN, Danny Danon, told reporters "we will take action" in response to the announcements. He declined to say if that would mean, as some Israeli officials have suggested, expanded settlements or outright annexations in the territory that has been envisioned as a Palestinian state. Israel's response, he said, would be announced by Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, who will address the UN gathering and meet this week with President Donald Trump.

Trump "disagrees" with the recognition, White House Press Secretary Karoline Leavitt said Monday, and "believes it is a reward to Hamas," whose October 7, 2023, assault on Israel touched off the war in Gaza, which has killed more than 60,000 people.

Macron, in his remarks, denounced that attack, in which Hamas killed about 1,200 people and took about 250 hostages.

Mahmoud Abbas, leader of the Palestinian Authority, said the authority would form the government of the West Bank and Gaza, with no role for Hamas. The US denied a visa for Abbas to attend the events in New York, so he addressed the meeting Monday by video.

NYT

Journalism under siege

PHIL CHETWYND

It is getting harder every day to do the fundamental journalistic task of collecting facts and verifying information. It is also getting much more dangerous.

In the first half of 2025, the climate facing journalists darkened to levels not seen in decades, reflecting a coordinated escalation of violence, intimidation, and censorship.

The fabric of societies is being torn apart by what in many cases are deliberate and calculated campaigns to undermine facts, the bedrock of our shared reality. There is no need to prove things are untrue; you only need to relentlessly smear, sow doubt, and float conspiracies. Often social media algorithms will do the rest.

For *Agence France-Presse*, an international news agency with a reporting team spread across the globe, the figures are stark: we had 25 serious incidents involving journalists working for us in the first six months of this year. That is more than occurred in the whole of 2024.

But these incidents of assaults, arrests, expulsions or journalists fleeing for their lives only hint at the full scale of the global assault on the public's right to information.

The geographical spread of violence and intimidation is widening. The situation is aggravated by the rise of authoritarian practices and populist rhetoric that openly targets the press. Law enforcement's growing impunity – emboldened by prevailing political messages – has made physical assaults on journalists commonplace. This is not a phenomenon isolated to so-called unstable regimes; it is surfacing in established democracies and countries with long traditions of press freedom, pointing to a dangerous shift in global norms.

Journalists have traditionally identified themselves at protests and public events, believing this identity carried some form of protection and legitimacy. But we increasingly see these identifiers as targets. Over the past year journalists working for us have been targeted in different and violent ways at protests in countries as varied as Turkey, Argentina, and the United States. All of them were clearly identified as press. All of them are convinced they were targeted because they were journalists.

In significant swathes of the world, journalism is effectively disappearing. The intimidation and threats have become unmanageable. We have seen journalists working for us being forced to flee from across the Sahel area of West Africa and also in areas of Central America such as Nicaragua and El Salvador. In parts of Eastern and Central Europe, our fact-checkers face regular death threats and campaigns to intimidate and silence.

The message often comes from the top. The presidency in Argentina posted on social media last year: "We Do Not Hate Journalists Enough." In total the Argentine Journalism Forum recorded 179 assaults on media workers in 2024.

And then there is Gaza. The Committee to Protect Journalists (CPJ) says nearly 200 journalists in Gaza have been killed over the past two years. It points to over 20 incidents where it believes individuals were deliberately targeted. Some of the journalists who work for *AFP* in Gaza refuse to wear their protective flak jackets because they fear it will make them a target. They also say people are scared to be near them because they think journalists are targets. And yet perhaps what is most notable is how few governments in the many countries that have thrived on press freedom are prepared to raise their heads above the parapet to stand up for facts, truth and press freedom. Many brave and dedicated journalists feel horribly alone at this point.

This assault on journalism and campaign to undermine facts comes as the management of our digital lives is increasingly transferring to powerful generative artificial intelligence tools. We can all see the astonishing capacities these tools have for knowledge building and human advancement, but we are also already seeing how they can be used to pollute our information ecosystem with vast amounts of false and made-up content.

This feels like an inflection point. People talk casually about living in a post-truth world. Journalism is imperfect; it will not always get it right. But the honest aspiration to gather information and seek the truth is fundamental to the healthy functioning of our societies. Now, more than ever, we need to stand up for facts. There can be no alternative.

(The writer is the Global News Director at Agence France-Presse [AFP].)

(DH is part of the global initiative to mark World News Day on September 28, and this article is the second in a series that will be published as part of this initiative)

OUR PAGES OF HISTORY

50 YEARS AGO: SEPTEMBER 1975

First oil well in Bay of Bengal spudded

New Delhi, September 23
The first offshore oil well in the Bengal basin off the Orissa-Bengal coast has been spudded, it was officially announced here today. The drill ship, "Fredericks- burg," brought in by the Carlsberg India Group contracted to undertake oil exploration and production work in the Bengal basin, spudded the first well on the midnight of September 21-22. The first well is on an offshore structure, about 80 kms off the Paradeep port in the Bay of Bengal.

25 YEARS AGO: SEPTEMBER 2000

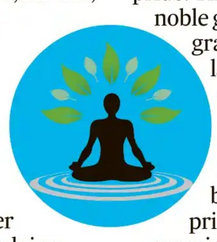
Late surge puts Beenamol in semis

Sydney, Sept 23
Continuing her dream run, K M Beenamol today became the first Indian woman athlete to qualify for an Olympic semi- final after P T Usha and Shiny Wilson in 1984, squeaking past the second round of the 400M race at the Olympic Stadium. Beenamol timed 51.81 seconds to finish fourth in heat three of the second round event and taking the last place from the heat. Top four from each second round heat qualify for the semifinals.

OASIS | GURURAJA RAMANAGARA

Why sincerity matters

The moment an order is successfully executed, online platforms request you to rate their product or service on a 1-5 scale or with stars. Some of the platforms go further to prod you to take a lengthy customer satisfaction survey also. In the case of home service or ride sharing, the delivery agent/driver requests a 5-star rating. These days everyone talks of 'rating', and a net-savvy person bases their decision solely on Web reviews. But the basic question is are we sincere in evaluating and rating? More often this exercise is treated as a mere formality, fulfilling it mechanically without any application of mind. On the contrary if not prodded how many of us have the sincerity or patience to acknowledge a good product, service, good work or help received during a day.



A few days ago, my niece's marriage engagement took place, and on the same evening, my brother-in-law received a heartfelt WhatsApp message from the groom's father thanking him and acknowledging it 'a very well-organised function and they were happy with the hospitality extended' and went on to thank profusely for the warmth showered on them.' No need to state that our entire family soaked in self-satisfaction and pride. This reminded us of a similar noble gesture decades back, of my grandfather who wrote an 'Inland letter' at the completion of my marriage to my father-in-law acknowledging the well conducted marriage. My father-in-law used to remember and mention it with great pride and honour whenever an occasion used to crop up.

Reflecting on the issue, it is true our society lacks the basics in 'simple courtesy.' We rarely thank or 'acknowledge' one's own spouse, family members, our maid, delivery boy, cab driver or others for the various services, help, favours bestowed on us during the day. In fact, there is an inexplicit subconscious feeling which inhibits us from acknowledging others good deeds fearing self-inflicted inferiority complex.

A whole hearted acknowledgement of a favour received from anybody, small or big, not only elates the 'receiver,' but also reflects on the 'honest soul' of the 'acknowledging' person. A simple gesture of acknowledging others good work is no doubt a sure biomarker of a good character in an individual.

Forest safe havens, fractured tribal trust aid terrorists in J&K

Officials feel there is a need to re-establish relations with Gujjar and Bakerwal tribes

ZULFIKAR MAJID
SRINAGAR, DHNS

Battle-hardened Pakistani terrorists equipped with the latest weapons have turned Jammu and Kashmir's dense forests into fortified safe havens, exploiting a growing rupture between security forces and Gujjar-Bakerwal nomadic tribes, said senior officials.

The officials admitted that with the pastoral communities, once the backbone of grassroots intelligence, pulling back from cooperation, counterinsurgency operations in the Pir Panjal and Chenab Valley and other districts of the Jammu region are fraught with dangerous blind spots.

Sources in the security establishment said a new crop of highly trained Pakistani fighters, many of them battle-hardened from combat experience in Pakistan and Afghanistan's tribal belts, are spearheading infiltration and survival strategies in the rugged mountains.

"These are not inexperienced local boys. They are trained in guerrilla warfare, adept in jungle survival and can sustain themselves for weeks in caves and forest hideouts," a senior police officer told *DH*.

"They have chosen dense forests and ridge-tops as their sanctuaries, knowing well that it makes detection harder and creates operational fatigue for our troops."

The thickly forested belts of Rajouri, Poonch (Pir Pamjal) and Doda, Kishtwar, Ramban (Chenab Valley) of Jammu region have witnessed a spurt in encounters since 2021.

Sources said small, well-armed groups are embedding themselves in safe zones across the Pir Panjal, relying less on overground workers and more on the cover offered by unpopulated wilderness.

"This is where the loss of Gujjar-Bakerwal cooperation hurts us most," the officer observed. "Earlier, nomadic herders moving with their flocks would flag suspicious presence, narrow down hideouts, or even guide patrols. That natural surveillance has gone missing."

He conceded that the breakdown in relations with Gujjars and Bakerwals is not the result of one episode but the cumulative fallout of neglect and flashpoints.

Incidents such as the 2018 Kathua rape and murder of a Bakerwal girl, the 2020 Amshipura fake encounter in which three Gujjar youth were killed and the 2023 custodial deaths of three civilians in Topa Pir, Poonch are among the visible triggers that deepened resentment. But, these are not the only reasons; they have compounded an already fragile relationship.

Community leaders echoed the sentiment. "Outstanding rights to forest lands remain unresolved. Families who grazed cattle there have not received individual claims," said Gujjar leader Shahnawaz Choudhary. "Add incidents like Topa Pir, which many believe was manipulated by Pakistan's ISI, and the youth feel ignored by both security forces and the administration."

Retired Lt Gen D S Hooda, former Northern Command chief, underlined what is at stake. "Somewhere, I don't think we've done justice to their role," he said.

Hooda pointed out that the first women Village Defence Committee members in Murah Kalalli, Surankote, were from these tribes. "They played a crucial role in Operation Sarp Vinash in 2003, when 78 terrorists entrenched in Hill Kaka in Poonch were eliminated. Gujjar and Bakerwal tribes are not just the eyes and ears of the Army but also the first line of defence. We must re-establish relations rather than treat them as irrelevant because peace seems to have returned."

Fraying trust

- **Gujjars & Bakerwals: Population:** 15 lakh (largest tribal group in J&K)
- Nomadic lifestyle
- Natural 'eyes and ears' in remote terrains
- Shrinking grazing rights, insecure livelihoods
- Forest land claims unresolved, mobility curbed
- **Flashpoints:** Kathua (2018), Amshipura (2020), Topa Pir (2023) – among incidents deepening resentment
- **Road ahead:** Rebuild trust, recruit Gujjar-Bakerwal youth into police/paramilitary

Hindu population halved under foreign rule: Yogi

SANJAY PANDEY
LUCKNOW, DHNS

Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath on Tuesday claimed that the Hindu population in India declined by 30 crore during the period of foreign rule.

Speaking at a function in Lucknow, Adityanath said the Hindu population stood at 60 crore around the year 1100. "It declined to 30 crore by the time India gained independence in 1947," he claimed.

"It is said that when Muslim invaders first attacked India around 1100, the Hindu population was 60 crore. By 1947, it had fallen to 30 crore. Tell me — should the population have increased or declined over 800–900 years?" he remarked.

He said Hindus were not only killed by foreign invaders but also died due to hunger, disease and repression. "This is what foreign slavery looks like," he added.

The saffron-clad CM said India had been exploited. "Three hundred years ago, India had everything... less than half the population depended on agriculture, while the rest were engaged in trade and small industries. India's quality products were renowned across the world," he said.

Adityanath, without naming anyone, criticised those who, he said, had divided the country along lines of caste, region and language. "They still operate with the same foreign mentality... they will question the Swadeshi campaign," he said.

The CM also referred to Prime Minister Narendra Modi's Swadeshi initiative, which aims to promote local products.

Navy to induct anti-submarine warfare ship Androth on Oct 6

NEW DELHI, DHNS: Amid a sharp rise in submarine activities in the Indian Ocean, the Indian Navy is set to commission its second submarine hunter INS Androth on October 6.

This comes three months after the first one, INS Arnala, was inducted in June. The navy plans to have 16 such anti-submarine warfare shallow water craft to deal with the rising maritime threats as China and Pakistan are increasing their underwater strength.

The induction of submarine hunter INS Androth will take place at the naval dockyard in Visakhapatnam in the presence of Vice Admiral Rajesh Pendharkar, Flag Officer Commanding-in-Chief, Eastern Naval Command.

Built by Garden Reach Shipbuilders and Engineers Ltd, Kolkata, with 80% indigenous components, INS Androth is equipped to detect, track, and neutralise underwater threats with precision.

The name 'Androth' holds strategic and symbolic significance, derived from Androth island in the Lakshadweep archipelago.

With a length of approximately 77 mt, INS Androth and INS Arnala are the largest Indian naval warships propelled by a diesel engine-waterjet combination and are equipped with state-of-the-art lightweight torpedoes, indigenous anti-submarine warfare rockets, and advanced shallow-water SONAR, enabling effective submarine detection and engagement in littoral zones.

Though smaller in size compared to the Kamorta-class anti-submarine warfare corvettes, these warships are capable of packing a punch.

India to hold biggest drone-war exercise

After Sindoor, massive Oct drill to involve 3 services

KALYAN RAY
NEW DELHI, DHNS

Four months after Operation Sindoor, India plans to hold its biggest military exercise next month involving drones and counter-drone systems with the objective of making the air-defence systems "fully robust", senior officials said here on Tuesday.

To be conducted at a base in Madhya Pradesh between October 6-10, Exercise Cold Start will involve all three services, Defence Research Establishment and industry.

"We will be testing some of our drones and counter-drone systems during this exercise, so that we can make our air defence system and counter-UAS completely robust," Air Marshal Rakesh Sinha, Deputy Chief of Integrated Defence Staff (Ops) HQ Integrated Defence Staff said on the sidelines of a conference.

"We have told the industry what kind of capability we need in the area of counter-drones. Our industry partners were told to remain two steps ahead," he said.

An official described it as the biggest such domestic exercise since the Pakistan conflict, and said it would involve recreating some of the drone warfare that took place in May.

10,000 drones in 6 yrs

Air Marshal Ashutosh Dixit, Chief of Integrated Defence Staff to the Chairman Chiefs of Staff Committee said he had been assured by the industry body PHDCCI that more than 10,000 drones would be available in the next 5-6 years in line with the technology road map prepared by the IDS.

After India's precision strikes on several terror infrastructure in Pakistan and Pakistan-Occupied Kashmir (PoK) under Operation Sindoor, several drone attacks were launched as counter-offensives by the Pakistani side, targeting the western sector.

"Operation Sindoor, per se, has given us a warning as well as an opportunity to accelerate our counter-UAS, so that we do not learn the lessons the hard way, when we are faced with the next engagement. Therefore, we must turn our lessons into actions, collaboration, innovation and unwavering focus to enhance our operational effectiveness," Air Marshal Sinha said.

Debris found in Dal Lake may be from Pak missile fired during Op Sindoor

SRINAGAR, DHNS

The debris believed to be from a Pakistani missile, fired during Operation Sindoor, has been found in Srinagar's Dal Lake.

Officials said the debris was spotted on Sunday during a routine cleaning drive carried out by the Lake Conservation and Management Authority. Workers alerted the police, who then handed over the material to the Air Force for further forensic examination.

"It was found during a usual cleaning operation at Dal Lake," a police official said.

"It is likely a missile. The make is not yet clear, but we suspect it was fired by Pakistan during Operation Sindoor in May. We had received some reports that day of a missile-like object hitting the waterbody."

On May 10, Pakistan fired a volley of missiles and drones across the Line of Control following India's Operation Sindoor in response to the Pahalgam terror attack. While Indian forces intercepted several projectiles, one suspected missile was reported to have fallen in the Dal Lake, but extensive searches at the time yielded nothing.

Sources said the recovered debris could be part of that projectile, and initial assessment suggests it may have been a Fateh-series missile, a short-range ballistic system in Pakistan's arsenal.

"The target could have been a military installation in Srinagar. The Dal Lake is less than a km from the Army's 15 Corps headquarters at Badami Bagh," sources said. "The exact make would only be known after Air Force labs complete their forensic tests."

Drone and missile threats have been a growing dimension of cross-border hostilities in Kashmir. In recent years, Pakistan has increasingly relied on drones to push weapons, narcotics, and explosives into J&K, even as the May confrontation witnessed the first reported large-scale use of missiles in the Valley since the 1999 Kargil War.

Officials said while no immediate threat remains from the recovered debris, its forensic analysis would provide vital clues about the type of missile used and Pakistan's targeting intent during the operation.

A group of foreign tourists takes 'shikara' rides at the Dal Lake in Srinagar. PTI

ED attaches AAP leader Satyendar's Rs 7.44-cr assets

NEW DELHI, PTI: The ED on Tuesday said it has attached a fresh set of assets worth Rs 7.44 crore of companies "beneficially owned and controlled" by AAP leader and former Delhi minister Satyendar Jain as part of a money laundering investigation.

The federal probe agency said that it had issued a provisional order under the PMLA on September 15 to attach immovable properties.

The probe pertains to an alleged case of possession of benami assets and a separate instance of holding disproportionate assets against Jain, his wife Poonam Jain and others.

SC seeks status reports from states on disposal of cheque bounce cases

ASHISH TRIPATHI
NEW DELHI, DHNS

The Supreme Court on Tuesday directed all states and Union Territories to submit status reports detailing the steps taken to expedite the disposal of cheque bounce cases.

A bench comprising Justices Vikram Nath and Sandeep Mehta issued the order while hearing a suo motu matter related to the speedy trial of cases under Section 138 of the Negotiable Instruments Act, 1881. The section pertains to the offence of cheque dishonour due to insufficient funds.

Senior advocate Sidharth Luthra, assisting the court as amicus curiae, referred to the Supreme Court's May 2022 order, which, as part of a pilot study, had directed the constitution of 25 special courts with retired judicial officers across five states to expedite the disposal of cheque bounce cases.

"We have to see whether the pilot project is working or not," Luthra said, adding that he has filed an application in the matter.

"We want a status report outlining the steps taken to improve disposal rates, along with data on vacancies and appointments," he added.

The application also requested the court to consider extending the scheme for appointing retired officers from the higher judicial service, within five years of retirement, as Special Judicial Magistrates for an additional period in the five states covered under the pilot study: Maharashtra, Delhi, Gujarat, Uttar Pradesh and Rajasthan.

Report in 6 weeks

The bench directed all states, Union Territories and the registrar generals of the high courts to submit the status reports within six weeks.

The matter was posted for hearing after six weeks.

In its May 2022 order, the SC directed that special courts under the Negotiable Instruments Act be set up in Maharashtra, Delhi, Gujarat, Uttar Pradesh and Rajasthan, citing a large backlog of pending cases.

"The pilot study shall be conducted in 25 special courts," it said.

Asaram's photo worship at Surat hospital sparks controversy

AHMEDABAD, DHNS: A controversy erupted after followers of Asaram Bapu, who is serving life sentences in two cases of rape, performed aarti and pooja by putting up his photo on Surat Civil Hospital premises.

Hospital authorities said that permission was granted to the disciples of the self-styled godman only for distribution of fruits to patients.

"We immediately ordered everything to stop. We also stopped them from distributing literature in the hospital. We condemn this act," said resident medical officer Dr Ketan Nayak.

The incident is said to have occurred on Sunday near the gate of the stem cell building at the new civil hospital. Several video clips of the purported worship of Asaram were doing the rounds on social media.

Sources said that during the pooja, some hospital officials also participated.

Asaram is convicted in two cases of rape. His first conviction was in the Jodhpur case in Rajasthan, and later he was found guilty of raping his disciple at his Ahmedabad ashram. However, these convictions have not deterred his followers.

Gyanvapi case: HC defers plea on Wazukhana survey to Oct 7

PRAYAGRAJ, PTI: The Allahabad High Court on Tuesday adjourned hearing in a matter seeking a survey by the ASI of the Wazukhana area, except for the Shivling inside the Gyanvapi mosque at Varanasi, and fixed October 7 for the next hearing.

When the case was taken up on Tuesday, the court was informed that the counsel for the Muslim side was unwell and could not attend the hearing. Subsequently, the court adjourned the hearing.

Rain havoc in Marathwada: 8 dead, houses & crops damaged

CHHATRAPATI SAMBHAJINAGAR, PTI: Eight people died, while hundreds of houses were damaged over the past four days as rains wreaked havoc in the usually parched Marathwada region, officials said on Tuesday.

The state cabinet reviewed the situation, with Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis saying that the government was working to provide relief to those affected.

More than 750 houses and crops on over 33,000 hectares were damaged in Dharashiv district, where helicopters and boats had to be deployed to rescue stranded people, they said.

Floodwaters from the Sina River inundate roads and homes in Maharashtra's Solapur. PTI

Incessant rains have been lashing several pockets of Marathwada since September 20, swelling up dams, prompting authorities to discharge water from them.

Eight people died since September 20, including three in Latur, two in Beed and one each in Chhatrapati Sambhajinagar, Nanded and Dharashiv due to lightning strike, drowning and other reasons, a revenue official said.

A road and two schools were damaged in Chhatrapati Sambhajinagar, while three bridges were affected in Jalna and Beed. Five small dams were also damaged in Marathwada.

In Dharashiv, 159 villages were affected and 186 livestock perished, while districts like Chhatrapati Sambhajinagar, Jalna and Beed faced a flood-like situation, officials said.

As many as 129 revenue circles across Marathwada region witnessed heavy downpour in the past 24 hours, they said.

Mohanlal, Shah Rukh & Rani lead national film honours

NEW DELHI, PTI: President Droupadi Murmu on Tuesday conferred National Awards for acting to Shah Rukh Khan, Vikrant Massey, and Rani Mukerji, while Malayalam superstar Mohanlal was honoured with the Dadasaheb Phalke lifetime achievement award in a ceremony that doffed its hat to mainstream popular cinema.

Filmmakers Vidhu Vinod Chopra, who took home the best film prize for *12th Fail*, and Karan Johar and Apoorva Mehra, who received the award for *Rocky Aur Rani Kii Kahaani* for best popular film providing wholesome entertainment, completed the starry ensemble at the 71st National Film Awards.

The best director award went to Sudipto Sen for *The Kerala Story*.

It's the first National Award for friends and frequent collaborators Shah Rukh and Rani as well as for Vikrant. While Shah Rukh got it for his role in *Jawan*, sharing his win with *12th Fail* star Vikrant, Rani bagged it for *Mrs Chatterjee vs Norway*.

"I got to know that when Mohanlal's name was announced for Dadasaheb Phalke, there was a wave of happiness among people. It shows that he has made a space for himself in countless people's heart," the president said in her address after the award ceremony.

"He has presented the softest of the soft and toughest of the tough emotions quite naturally," the president added in a speech in which she congratulated all the winners and touched on various issues, including the plurarity of Indian cinema, Indian sensibility and women-centric films.

As the recipient of the prestigious Dadasaheb Phalke, Mohanlal was the only awardee who spoke.

Mohanlal said he was deeply humbled to be the youngest recipient and "only the second ever" from the state to be bestowed with this national recognition.

President Droupadi Murmu presents the Best Actor award to Vikrant Massey. PTI

Pradhan launches Viksit Bharat Buildathon for students

NEW DELHI, DHNS: Union Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan on Tuesday inaugurated the 'Viksit Bharat Buildathon 2025', a nationwide innovation drive in which 12 crore students from 6 lakh schools will participate.

The Viksit Bharat Buildathon 2025 is being organised by the Department of School Education & Literacy (DoSEL) with the Atal Innovation Mission, NITI Aayog, and AICTE. The Ministry of Education said this is the "largest innovation movement ever being attempted" anywhere in the world.

Pradhan said the ministry plans to involve all school students from classes 6-12.

Students can now register for the buildathon at vbb.mic.gov.in till October 6.

SEASON READY

Railways to run 12,000 festival special trains from Oct 1

AJITH ATHRADY
NEW DELHI, DHNS

To meet the upcoming festival rush during Deepavali and Chhath Puja, Railway Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw on Tuesday said that 12,000 special trains will be operated.

"Last year, we operated 7,500 special trains. This year we have enhanced our capacity and set a target of 12,000 special trains," the minister told reporters here.

According to Vaishnaw, as of today, notifications for nearly 10,000 special trains have already been issued. For the remaining trains, notifications will be issued in the coming days in line with demand. Of these, 150 trains will be fully unreserved and kept ready for last-minute deployment to cater to sudden spikes in passenger demand, he said.

The operation of these festival specials will begin from October 1 and continue till November 15, covering the entire festive travel season.

The minister assured passengers that the railways has made elaborate preparations to manage the massive surge in festive travel and that real-time monitoring will be carried out to ensure smooth and safe operations.

Vande Bharat Sleeper trains

He also said the Vande Bharat Sleeper trains will be launched once the second train is ready for regular service.

One train is ready for launch at the Shakur Basti Coaching Depot in Delhi after undergoing necessary trials and testing. The second train is being manufactured and will possibly be ready by October 15, 2025. "Both the trains will be launched together," he said.

Punctuality goals

Highlighting achievements in train running schedules, Vaishnaw said that 29 rail divisions — including Malda, Mysore, Sealdah, Nagpur and Trivandrum — have achieved 90% punctuality.

CPI (Maoist) rejects 'surrender' claims

Declares renewed commitment to mobilise mass resistance against security forces

S N V SUDHIR
HYDERABAD, DHNS

Days after the Telangana state committee of CPI (Maoist) issued a statement, the party's Central Committee released its own statement condemning spokesperson and Politburo member Abhay for announcing his willingness to surrender and launch peace negotiations with the government.

The Central Committee and Politburo, which together serve as the highest decision-making body within the CPI (Maoist), declared their readiness to continue the armed struggle, dismissing the proposal to surrender arms as merely Abhay's personal opinion.

The statement was issued by Kadari Satyanarayana alias Kosa and Katta Ramachandra Reddy alias Vikalp. Incidentally, both leaders were killed in an encounter in Abujhmad, Chhattisgarh, on Monday. It has been learnt, the statement was issued before their deaths.

Both leaders, who hailed from Telangana, were prominent central committee members. The statement directed that if Abhay wished to surrender, he should first hand over all arms in his possession to the CPI Maoist People's Guerrilla Liberation Army (PGLA).

The statement emphasised that while top police and government officials have continued pressuring Maoist leaders and cadre to surrender, the party's central committee, disciplinary bodies, and rank-and-file firmly reject surrender as both a tactic and ideology. Instead, they declared a renewed commitment to mobilising mass resistance against continued security force operations and social 'austerity' drives.

The central committee urged all party units, imprisoned members, and allies at every level to oppose surrender and continue fighting for ideological and political goals, asserting that only a strong Maoist movement can resist ongoing repression and economic instability.

The controversy centres around Mallojula Venugopal Rao, brother of slain top Naxal leader Mallojula Koteswar Rao, who operates under the aliases Abhay and Sonu. He is a member of the central committee and Politburo, and a letter and audio clip expressing the CPI (Maoist) willingness to surrender arms had surfaced a few days ago.

"The issue of surrendering to the government is being spread merely for confusion and diversion. Our party is only interested in resisting the government's surrender policy, as well as its reactionary, repressive line. The party's opposition to surrender and collaboration with the enemy is both political and ideological," stated the letter issued in the name of Kosa and Vikalp on September 20. The party's main line remains strongly committed to the transformative programme, the letter added.

Assam bids farewell to Zubeen with song and salute

GUWAHATI, DHNS: Back in 2019, during one of his concerts, Zubeen Garg had said that 'Mayabini', one of his most soul-stirring Assamese hits, should be sung when he dies.

On Tuesday, as his last rites were performed on the outskirts of Guwahati, thousands of fans, his wife Garima, fellow cultural figures and CM Himanta Biswa Sarma stood together in solemn tribute, singing the song in unison as Zubeen's sister Palme Borthakur lit the pyre of one of Assam's most beloved cultural icons.

Assam police offered a 21-gun salute as the musician, actor and filmmaker was cremated with full state honours. Garg (52) died while swimming in the sea with friends in Singapore on September 19.

Markets, offices, and educational institutions across the state remained closed as the government declared a three-day state holiday in mourning.

Before the final journey, a second autopsy was conducted. Sarma said it was done at fans' request. A non-invasive autopsy in Singapore had already confirmed drowning as the cause of death.

At least 54 FIRs have been filed, many naming entrepreneur Shyamkanu Mahanta and Zubeen's manager Siddharth Sarma. The complaints question why he was taken to sea despite health concerns and medical advice to avoid water.

High court stays probe into UP's govt-aided madrasas

SANJAY PANDEY
LUCKNOW, DHNS

The Allahabad High Court has stayed the ongoing probe by the Economic Offences Wing (EOW) against more than 500 government-aided 'madrasas' (Islamic seminaries) in Uttar Pradesh.

A division bench comprising Justices Saral Srivastava and Amitabh Kumar Rai passed the order on a petition filed by the Madrasa Teachers Association on Monday.

The EOW probe against the madrasas was initiated at the direction of the Human Rights Commission after receiving a complaint from Mohammed Talha Ansari in April this year.

The court, however, said that the direction to the EOW to launch a probe against the 'madrasas' was outside the jurisdiction of the Commission.

The court concurred with the lawyers representing the Madrasa Teachers Association that the Commission was not a Tribunal which could investigate the recruitment in the madrasas.

The court also stated that the complainant was a habitual complainant and that he was not the victim; hence, he did not have any locus.

The association further contended that there was no provision in the madrasa manual for an investigation through the EOQ.

The interim stay by the court has come as a huge relief to the madrasa teachers who were appointed on the basis of 'kamil' (UG) and 'Fazil' (PG) degrees. The commission had said that the salary paid to these teachers was financial corruption, as these degrees had been termed invalid by the Supreme Court.

The lawyers of the association said that the SC decision was effective from November 5, 2024 but the petitioner had sought a stay on the payment of salaries of all the madrasa teachers.

Supreme Court permits CBI to file 6 more cases in real estate fraud probe

NEW DELHI, DHNS: The Supreme Court on Tuesday allowed the CBI to register six more regular cases for duping homebuyers, in connection with the "unholy nexus" between banks and developers in real estate projects in Mumbai, Bengaluru, Kolkata, Mohali and Prayagraj.

Additional Solicitor General Aishwarya Bhati, representing the central agency, mentioned before a bench of Justices Surya Kant, Ujjal Bhuyan and N Kotiswar Singh that the agency had completed preliminary inquiries in projects of various builders, except Supertech Ltd, falling outside Delhi-NCR in Mumbai, Bengaluru, Kolkata, Mohali and Prayagraj.

The CBI contended that after its preliminary inquiry, it was found that a cognisable offence was established.

She submitted that for a speedy probe, the agency was inclined to register 6 cases, and it would also conduct search and seizure operations.

After hearing her submissions, the bench allowed the CBI to proceed as per the law and register regular cases. The bench asked Bhati to share portions of the sealed cover report with amicus curiae advocate Rajiv Jain.

On July 22, the apex court had allowed the CBI to file 22 cases in connection with the "unholy nexus" between banks and developers to dupe homebuyers in the National Capital Region (NCR). Builders in NCR and development authorities in UP and Haryana are now under the apex court's scanner.

The court appreciated the CBI's efforts in taking up the matter and examining over 1,000 persons, while visiting 58 project sites. It asked the central agency to expeditiously conclude the probe and take the matter to its logical conclusion.

The court also allowed the CBI to convert six preliminary enquiries it had conducted against various builders and banks into 22 regular cases equivalent to FIRs.

MISCELLANY

◆ COMICS ◆

Blondie

WHAT ARE THE BIG NEWS TODAY, HONEY?
I DON'T KNOW... I SKIPPED STRAIGHT TO THE COMICS
HEADLINES
HOW CAN YOU SKIP ALL THAT HARD-HITTING NEWS AND GO STRAIGHT TO THE COMICS?
EASY
READING THE COMICS FIRST SOFTENS THE BLOW!

Hagar The Horrible

Beetle Bailey

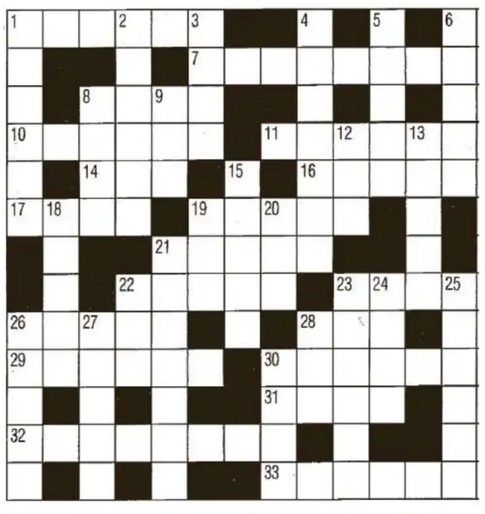
YOU WANNA PLACE A BET, BEETLE?
YOU'RE TAKING BETS ON OUR HIKE?!
YES. PARLAYS ON MILEAGE, DURATION, ELEVATION, THE TOP PERFORMER
HOW ABOUT "MOST YELLED AT"?
GREG + MORT WALKER

Peanuts

NOW, THIS ANIMAL I HAVE BROUGHT HERE TODAY IS CALLED A DOG
YOU'RE KIDDING!
YOU'RE PUTTING US ON!
I STILL THINK IT'S A SMALL MOOSE!
I AGREE!
ALL RIGHT, YOU GUYS, CUT IT OUT!
HERE, MOOSIE, MOOSIE, MOOSIE!

Marvin

CROSSWORD CHALLENGE 12253



CRYPTIC

ACROSS
1 Old-fashioned Oriental curtain material (6)
7 A baby possibly left on the doorstep? (8)
8 A house half habitable? (4)
10 Thrashed soundly by 2 Down (6)
11 Road rage, it seems, is just an illusion (6)
14 Obtained in negotiation (3)
16 One of the larger locations of toothache (5)
17 A German river? (4)
19 A town rebuilt by a god (5)
21 Paid a pound for a hammer (5)
22 Cross the wrong date out when under pressure (5)
23 So, back in church, a club is formed (4)
26 In theory, Shakespeare's ghost? (5)
28 To wash may be a matter of honour (3)
29 Foreigners, as possessing a legal right (6)
30 Harmlessly chucking a chap in the river (6)
31 Has he circuitous ways of scoring goals? (4)
32 Vessels moving without power? (8)
33 What it can be to get a cackling female out of the way (6)

DOWN
1 Rocky port in Panama! (6)
2 Be at school with the Mrs (for cookery) (6)
3 The brooding god? (4)
4 Note a learner is very unimportant (7)
5 It's hard, maybe, but bad meat gets left (5)
6 Sue from Derry? (5)
8 For pudding, turn the gas up, love (4)
9 Satisfied with a reduced police service (3)
12 He goes right ahead (3)
13 Pontoon bridge components (5)
15 As a read, it can't be all enveloping (5)
18 Statistically essential? (5)
19 It gets the works at Madame Tussaud's (3)
20 To him, IOUs are tedious (3)
21 Sang wildly about ten rising fliers (7)
22 As opposed to the head? (3)
23 It's dark inside the judge's chambers (6)
24 Frank has a letter to write (4)
25 A tomboy may deny having no use for a house! (6)
26 The group a bighead can chat with (5)
27 In a band, it's a bit like a kazoo (5)
28 In legal matters, there's many a point (3)
30 Rubbish may be shot here (4)

ACROSS
1 Sundown (6)
7 Erudite (4-4)
8 Bundle of hay (4)
10 Pointed beard (6)
11 Indigenous (6)
14 Observe (3)
16 Lowest point (5)
17 Primates (4)
19 Alcoholic drink (5)
21 Provide food (5)
22 Cloth made of flax(5)
23 Conspiracy (4)
26 Festive occasions (5)
28 Golfer's peg (3)
29 Adjusts (6)
30 Rummage about (6)
31 Among (4)
32 Soldier who runs away (8)
33 Moral principles (6)

DOWN
1 Mark of disgrace (6)
2 Declares formally (6)
3 Excessively sentimental (4)
4 Mrs Mop (7)
5 Lukewarm (5)
6 Viper (5)
8 Centre of operations (4)
9 Sheltered side (3)
12 Pitch (3)
13 Star sign (5)
15 Flying toys (5)
18 Appeal humbly (5)
19 Container (3)
20 Lair (3)
21 Water tank (7)
22 Circuit (3)
23 Die (6)
24 Be ahead in a race (4)
25 Fashions (6)
26. Garish (5)
27 Round-up rope (5)
28 Male cat (3)
30 Ticket money (4)

SOLUTIONS TO CROSSWORD 12252

CRYPTIC
ACROSS: 1, Ocean 6, S-t-ack 9, Decider 10, Glove 11, Cited 12, Pluto 13, W-itch-ES 15, Gem 17, Acre 18, Armada 19, N-ewts 20, Ca-dge-r 22, Flo-e 24, H-U-e 25, Patient 26, Sugar 27, Pup-il 28, Aidan 29, Gaspers 30, St-one 31, C-hide.
DOWN: 2, Celtic 3, Ad-vice 4, Nee 5, W-ill-S 6, Sectors 7,Trio 8, Chewed 12, Peter 13, Watch 14,Trade 15, G-able 16, Manet 18, Attar 19, Nebula-e 21, August 22, Finish 23, Onw-a-Rd. 25, Pappy 26, Sign 28, Arc.

EASY
ACROSS: 1, Renal 6, Snaps 9, Situate 10, First 11, Ewers 12,Tilts 13, Elastic 15, Boa 17, Best 18, Moment 19, Japan 20, Eyeful 22, Vera 24, Don 25, Rotates 26, Fiver 27, Ideal 28, Patio 29, Recruit 30, Grime 31, Needs.
DOWN: 2, Edible 3, Assist 4, Lit 5,Tunic 6, Stetson 7, News 8, Pardon 12,Tidal 13, Ebbed 14, Ashen 15, Beret 16, Atlas 18, Major 19, Jubilee 21, Yonder 22, Vacate 23, Remind 25, Rears 26, Farm 28, Pin.

◆SU-DO-KU-6709◆

8							6	
	5							3
4		3	7			8		
		7			5	9	3	
		2	8		7	4		
	3	4	1			7		
		6			8	5		4
3							9	
9	7							2

medium

SOLUTION TO 6708

8	7	6	2	1	9	3	4	5
5	3	9	6	7	4	1	8	2
4	1	2	5	8	3	6	9	7
7	6	5	1	4	8	2	3	9
9	8	3	7	2	6	5	1	4
1	2	4	3	9	5	8	7	6
2	5	1	4	3	7	9	6	8
6	4	8	9	5	1	7	2	3
3	9	7	8	6	2	4	5	1

To solve the puzzle: To solve a su-do-ku puzzle, every digit from1 to 9 must appear in each of the nine vertical columns, in each of the nine horizontal rows, and in each of the nine boxes.

SCRABBLE™

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							RACK 1
E1	E1	S1	D2	R1	S1	I1	
							RACK 2
R1	C3	C3	T1	E1	O1	R1	Double Word Score
							RACK 3
E1	B3	C3	H4	R1	L1	E1	Triple Word Score
							RACK 4
A1	E1	E1	R1	N1	G2	L1	

PAR SCORE 185-195

by JUDD

FOUR RACK TOTAL TIME LIMIT: 20 MIN

DIRECTIONS: Make a 2- to 7-letter word from the letters in each row. Add points of each word, using scoring directions at right. 7-letter words get 50-point bonus. "Blanks" used as any letter have no point value. All Judd's words are in the Collins English Dictionary. JUDD'S SOLUTION TOMORROW

YESTERDAY'S SOLUTION

E1	L1	A1	P3	S1	E1	S1	RACK 1 =	68
B3	I1	N1	D2	E1	R1		RACK 2 =	9
T1	E1	E1	T1	E1	R1	S1	RACK 3 =	57
T1	A1	R1	G2	E1	T1		RACK 4 =	21
S1	C3	E1	P3	T1	E1	R1	RACK 5 =	67

PAR SCORE 145-155 JUDD'S TOTAL 222

JUMBLE®

THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME
By David L. Hoyt and Jeff Knurek

Unscramble these Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

RIEEE

ELPSL

CESPTA

LVOVEE

I've never slept this high before.
Here! My cat likes being up there.
WHEN SHE SLEPT ON THE TOP BUNK AT HER FRIEND'S HOUSE, IT WAS A ---

Get the free JUST JUMBLE app • Follow us on Twitter @PlayJumble

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Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

Print your answer here: _____ (Answers tomorrow)

Yesterday's Jumbles: BUNCH CIVIL SKIMPY SPRING
Answer: The musician's favorite part of being a solo guitarist was that he got to — PICK HIS MUSIC

HITORI-3163

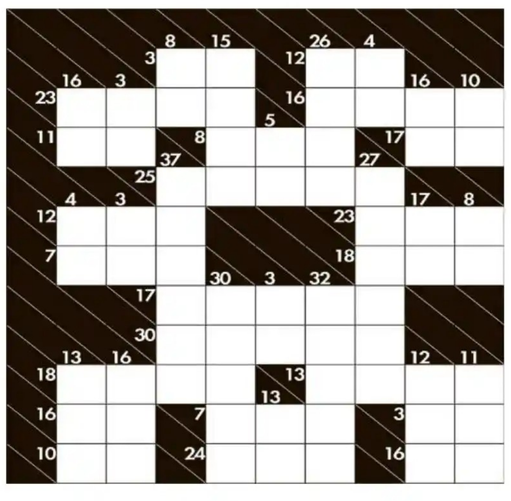
5	8	5	7	4	5	6	3
2	7	7	8	3	5	6	6
7	2	1	5	6	4	5	4
4	5	2	5	7	3	7	8
5	7	5	4	4	1	8	2
7	6	4	7	5	2	7	7
1	4	7	6	8	7	3	4
7	5	6	7	7	8	4	1

SOLUTION TO 3162

■	7	■	8	6	1	2	3
7	5	1	2	■	3	6	■
6	3	■	5	8	■	7	2
■	1	6	■	7	4	■	8
8	2	■	1	5	■	3	■
■	4	8	6	■	7	5	1
5	8	■	7	3	6	■	4
■	6	7	4	■	2	8	5

To solve the puzzle: Eliminate numbers by filling in squares so that remaining cells in that row or column do not repeat that number more than once. Filled-in cells cannot be horizontally or vertically adjacent. The un-filled cells must form a single component connected horizontally and vertically.

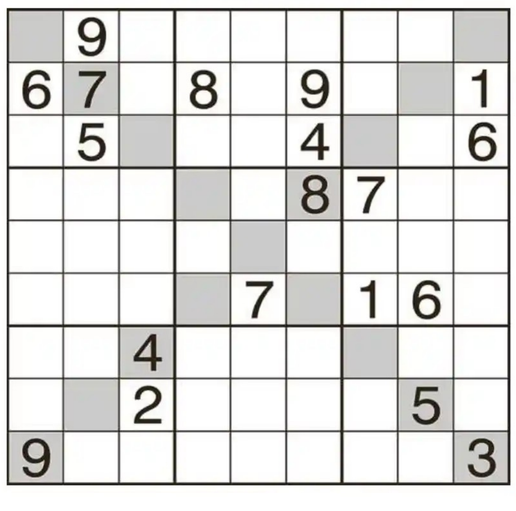
KAKURO- 3163



SOLUTION TO 3162

To solve the puzzle: Put a number from 1 through 9 in a cell. No zeros. A number in a cell separated by diagonal line tells the sum of numbers in consecutive cells at its right or downward. No number may appear more than once in consecutive cells.

SU DO KU X - 3686



SOLUTION TO 3685

4	1	2	5	7	6	9	3	8
8	9	6	2	1	3	4	5	7
5	3	7	4	8	9	2	1	6
1	6	3	8	2	4	7	9	5
9	2	5	6	3	7	1	8	4
7	4	8	9	5	1	6	2	3
3	8	1	7	6	2	5	4	9
2	7	9	3	4	5	8	6	1
6	5	4	1	9	8	3	7	2

To solve the puzzle: The objective is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column, each 3x3 box and each shaded diagonal line contains the same number only once.

Trump takes India-Pak ceasefire claim to UN

Says he ended seven 'unendable wars' in 7 months

NEW DELHI, DHNS

US President Donald Trump on Tuesday reiterated his oft-repeated claim of brokering the May 10 truce between India and Pakistan at the United Nations, despite repeated rebuttals from New Delhi, including a personal denial by Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

"In a period of just seven months, I have ended seven unendable wars," Trump, who returned as the United States president on January 20, told the UN General Assembly. He went on to claim that he ended the wars between Israel and Iran, India and Pakistan, Rwanda and the Democratic Republic of Congo, Thailand and Cambodia, Armenia and Azerbaijan, Egypt and Ethiopia, and Serbia and Kosovo.

The US President has routinely repeated his claim of mediating the truce between India and Pakistan to end the cross-border flare-up between May 7 and 10. However, this is the first time he has made the claim at the United Nations.

"They said they were unendable. Some (of the conflicts) were going on for 31 years, one was... 36 years. I ended seven wars, and, in all cases, they were raging with countless thousands of people being killed," Trump said, claiming that no other president or prime minister had "ever done anything close to that".

Apart from his tariff tirade against India and efforts to complicate New Delhi's continued involvement in the Chabahar Port sanction waiver, as well as moves to restrict H-1B visa access for Indian IT professionals, Trump's repeated claims of brokering the truce between India and Pakistan have added to the strain in bilateral ties.

Trump on Tuesday criticised the UN and said that he had to do what the international organisation should have done. He said that the UN had not even tried to help end the wars. "It (the UN) is not even coming close to living up to its potential...It's (offering) only empty words, and empty words don't solve wars."

Over the past three months, India has repeatedly refuted the US claim of brokering the ceasefire. PM Modi himself dismissed the claim during a phone call with President Trump on June 17.

Despite India's denials, Trump and his administration continued to assert credit for the truce between the two South Asian neighbours. Pakistan, meanwhile, endorsed the US president's claim and went so far as to nominate him for the Nobel Peace Prize.

I.N.D.I.A bloc to unveil agenda for extreme backward classes

EBCs form 36% of Bihar's population; quota benefits, legal protection likely

SHEMIN JOY
NEW DELHI, DHNS

Shifting gears in campaign before the announcement of the poll schedule for Bihar, I.N.D.I.A bloc will unveil its agenda for the 'Extreme Backward Classes' (EBCs) on Wednesday.

The bloc is also likely to unveil women's agenda on September 26, which may include debt waiver and other promises.

Leader of Opposition in Lok Sabha Rahul Gandhi, RJD's Tejashwi Yadav, senior CPI(ML)L lawmaker Sudama Prasad, among others, will attend the unveiling of the 'nyay sankalp' for EBCs in Patna at 3 pm.

Final touch

Rahul and other Congress leaders will be in Patna on Wednesday to attend the meeting of the extended Congress Working Committee (CWC).

Sources said a meeting of senior Bihar leaders on Tuesday gave final touches to the EBC agenda.

The EBCs include 112 castes and constitute around 36% of Bihar's population. Castes like Teli, Mallah, Kanu, and Dhanuk are among the prominent EBC castes.

The Bihar Assembly had passed a Bill increasing reservation for OBCs, including for EBCs from 18% to 25%, after the caste survey, but it was nullified by a High Court order.

Sources indicated that the I.N.D.I.A bloc's promises for EBCs may include one on increasing quota benefits and legal protection. It may also include a law on the lines of the SC/ST Atrocities (Prevention) Act to enable EBCs fight atrocities against community members.

As Nitish's JD(U) is said to have an influence over EBC votes, the I.N.D.I.A bloc allies are working overtime to woo voters from these communities.

The RJD has appointed Mangani Lal Mandal, an EBC, for the first time as its Bihar chief. Mandal belongs to the Dhanuk caste, while Congress has also created a department for EBCs.

Parties like RJD and Congress are also looking to field more EBC candidates than the last time.

Sources said RJD is working hard to change its perception as just a Muslim-Yadav (MY) party.

In 2020, only four of RJD's 19 EBC candidates won, indicating that the EBCs did not rally behind it, as against JD(U), which managed victory for 12 of its 17 EBC nominees.

CWC meeting in Patna today

As the I.N.D.I.A bloc gears up for the Bihar Assembly polls, a "rich-in-symbolism" meeting of the Congress Working Committee (CWC) will be held in Patna on Wednesday, where top leaders will discuss electoral strategy and a national roadmap for the 'vote chori' campaign, reports DHNS.

This will be an extended CWC meeting, with the party's chief ministers, state presidents, and Congress Legislature Party (CLP) leaders participating alongside regular members and permanent and special invitees.

India & China must oppose tariff and trade wars, says envoy

NEW DELHI, PTI: China and India should firmly oppose hegemony, power politics, and any form of tariff and trade wars, Chinese ambassador Xu Feihong said on Tuesday amid New Delhi's frosty ties with the Trump administration after it doubled the levies on Indian goods to 50%.

In an address at an event, the envoy proposed a four-point approach to advance relations between India and China that included finding the "right way" to get along with each other in the spirit of mutual respect and trust.

Xu said the two countries should not allow the boundary question to define the current China-India relations and that bilateral trade should be expanded as it has "great potential".

The envoy's remarks came more than three weeks after Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Chinese President Xi Jinping held talks on the sidelines of the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) summit in China's Tianjin city.

SP leader Azam Khan walks out of jail after 23 months

SANJAY PANDEY
LUCKNOW, DHNS

Party leaders greet Azam Khan after his release from jail in Bareilly. PTI

Senior Samajwadi Party (SP) leader and former Lok Sabha member Azam Khan, who faces dozens of cases, including those of forgery and land encroachment, walked out of the Sitapur district jail on Tuesday after 23 months, even as he kept mum on speculations that he could join the BSP.

Azam, who was accorded a rousing welcome by his supporters, who had gathered outside the jail in large numbers, when queried about his next course of action, said that he would rest for sometime and then chalk out his future strategy.

Khan, who headed straight for his home town Rampur after being released on bail, was accompanied by a cavalcade comprising more than 75 vehicles.

"Only time will tell... I can't say anything at this moment... ask those who are making this prediction," the firebrand SP leader retorted when asked if he planned to join the BSP.

He, however, said that he was not 'displeased' with SP president Akhilesh Yadav, who welcomed his release and said that Azam Khan had been implicated in false cases and that all the cases would be withdrawn once the SP government came to power in the state.

Akhilesh also said that the reports that Azam Khan could join the BSP were mere 'rumours'.

Senior SP leader and party general secretary Shivpal Singh Yadav also rejected reports that Khan was planning to join the BSP. "Azam Khan is a Samajwadi. He will never join the BSP," Shivpal said.

Former SP LS member ST Hasan, however, said that Khan's departure from the party would not cause much damage to the SP.

BJP seizes on Tewari's 'nepo kids' post to target Rahul

NEW DELHI, PTI: Congress leader Manish Tewari on Tuesday referred to the recent toppling of governments in Sri Lanka, Bangladesh and Nepal and the recent protests in Phillipines to say that "entitlement is no longer acceptable to Gen X, Y, Z".

The BJP latched on to Tewari's use of words like "#nepokids" in his post on X to say, "Senior Congress leader Manish Tewari, member of the G-23 rebel group, takes aim at Rahul Gandhi - the ultimate 'Nepo Kid' of Indian politics."

In his post, Tewari wrote, "The toppling of President Gotabaya Rajapaksa in Sri Lanka in July 2023, Sheikh Hasina in Bangladesh in July 2024, KP Sharma Oli in Nepal in September 2025 and now the protests against Ferdinand Marcos Jr in Philippines have one word written over them - ENTITLEMENT IS NO LONGER ACCEPTABLE TO GEN X, Y, Z."

He also said, "Watch for my piece on 'The Social Media Trends that toppled or are challenging 'DYNASTS'. Study #nepokids or #TrillionPesoMarch in the meantime."

Manish Tewari

Tewari cited media reports on the recent protests in the Philippines erupting over flood control fraud.

The remarks of Tewari were used by the BJP to attack the Congress, with its leader Amit Malviya terming Gandhi as the "ultimate 'Nepokid' of Indian politics and Sambit Patra saying people of the country have already removed the "nepokid" in 2014.

"Senior Congress leader Manish Tewari, member of the G-23 rebel group, takes aim at Rahul Gandhi - the ultimate 'Nepo Kid' of Indian politics.

"Forget Gen Z, even Congress's own veterans are fed up with his regressive politics. The revolt is now from within," Malviya said in his post on X while responding to Tewari.

'Grow up'

Tewari, a member of the G23 rebel group within the Congress which had questioned the leadership, hit back, saying his remarks should not be viewed as Congress versus BJP, but have serious national security implications for the country.

"Gosh I just wish that some people would grow up in life. Everything does not have to be dumbed down to a Cong - BJP he said she said or targeting X or Y.

"What is happening in South Asia and East Asia has serious National Security implications and why it is happening needs to be understood in the correct perspective," Tewari said.

BJP spokesperson Sambit Patra also said, "Manish Tewari has written in his article that GEN Z doesn't want a dynast. That's why there are so many conflicts going on all over the world to remove dynast. He has called it nepo kid."

"People of India are spiritual and awakened also. They did it in 2014 itself. People of India do not take to the streets to do such things. People of India do the right thing at the right time in a very disciplined manner. So they removed the Nepo kid," Patra said.

WORLD

Trump slams UN on peace and migration

Recognition of Palestine is a reward to Hamas, says US President

UNITED NATIONS, AFP

US President Donald Trump relentlessly mocked the United Nations on Tuesday in his first address since his White House comeback, blasting it for failing to bring peace and claiming the world body encourages illegal migration.

In his return to the UN General Assembly podium, Trump accused the organisation of fostering an "assault" through migration on Western countries that he said were "going to hell."

He also used the forum to denounce global efforts to reduce warming, calling climate change concerns "the greatest con job ever perpetrated on the world." "What is the purpose of the United Nations?" Trump asked. "All they seem to do is write a really strongly worded letter. It's empty words, and empty words don't solve war."

The 79-year-old even complained about a broken escalator and teleprompter at the New York headquarters, institutions he has repeatedly targeted throughout both of his presidential terms.

US President Donald Trump addresses the 80th United Nations General Assembly in New York City on Tuesday. REUTERS

"These are the two things I got from the United Nations — a broken escalator and a faulty teleprompter," he said.

Touting what he said were his efforts to end seven wars, Trump turned to two conflicts where his outreach has so far failed to yield results — Russia's invasion of Ukraine and Israel's war in Gaza following Hamas's 7 October 2023 attack.

He called recognition of a Palestinian state by Washington's allies a "reward" to Hamas for "horrible atrocities" and urged the group to release hostages to achieve peace.

"It's time to end the failed experiment of open borders," Trump declared. "Your countries are going to hell," he added, also attacking London's Mayor Sadiq Khan, the first Muslim mayor of a Western capital.

Trump's second term has opened with a blaze of nationalist policies curbing cooperation with the wider world.

He has moved to pull the United States out of the World Health Organization and the UN climate agreement, severely cut US development assistance, and wielded sanctions against foreign judges over rulings he sees as violations of sovereignty.

Opening the annual summit, UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres warned that aid cuts led by the United States were "wreaking havoc" globally.

"What kind of world will we choose? A world of raw power – or a world of laws?" Guterres asked.

On Ukraine, Trump met President Volodymyr Zelenskyy for the second time since his 15 August summit in Alaska with Russian President Vladimir Putin.

CHAOTIC WORLD

- UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres says leaders face the choice of peace or war. "We have entered an age of reckless disruption and relentless human suffering."
- The New York City gridlock during the UN General Assembly session did not spare even French President Emmanuel Macron, whose entourage was stopped by police due to strict traffic restrictions in place for US President Donald Trump's motorcade.

Nato should shoot down Russian aircraft breaching airspace: Trump

UNITED NATIONS, AFP: United States President Donald Trump said on Tuesday that Nato nations should shoot down Russian planes violating their territory, as he met Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy on the sidelines of a UN summit.

"Yes I do," Trump said when a reporter asked if Nato countries should shoot down Russian aircraft if they enter their airspace.

His comments come after a series of recent incursions by Russian fighter jets and drones that have rattled Washington's Nato allies in Europe.

The US president meanwhile once again deflected questions about whether he believed Russian leader Vladimir Putin was ready to make peace despite recent Russian escalations.

"I'll let you know in about a month from now, okay?" Trump said when asked if he still trusted Putin, whom he met in a high-profile summit in Alaska in August.

WORLD AT A GLANCE

Animal rights activists, painted to resemble bloodied snakes, protest outside Prada's boutique during the Milan Fashion Week in Italy on Tuesday. REUTERS

US politician sparks row over remarks on Hanuman

▸ A US politician has sparked a controversy by describing Hindu God Hanuman as "false" and declaring America to be a "Christian nation", drawing sharp criticism from the community members and internet users, PTI reports from Houston.

Sharing a video of a 90-ft bronze statue of Hanuman located in Texas, Republican leader Alexander Duncan posted on social media last week, "Why are we allowing a false statue of a false Hindu God to be here in Texas? We are a CHRISTIAN nation!" His remarks prompted a strong response from the Hindu American Foundation, which called out the Texas Republican Senate candidate and demanded action against him. Tagging the official X handle of the Republican Party of Texas, the foundation wrote, "Hello @TexasGOP, will you be disciplining your senate candidate from your party who openly contravenes your own guidelines against discrimination - displaying some pretty sordid anti-Hindu hate?" The Hanuman statue, also known as the Statue of Union, is located at the Sri Ashtalakshmi Temple in Sugar Land. It is North America's tallest Hanuman statue.

Iran rejects direct talks with US

▸ Iran's supreme leader on Tuesday rejected direct negotiations with the US over his country's nuclear programme, likely slamming the door shut on a last-ditch effort to halt the reimposition of United Nations sanctions on Tehran, AP/PTI reports from Vienna.

Ayatollah Ali Khamenei's remarks, aired on Iranian state television, likely constrain any possible outreach to the US by Iranian President Masoud Pezeshkian, who is in New York for the UN General Assembly. Separately, Iranian Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi held meetings with diplomats from France, Germany and the United Kingdom over the reimposition of the sanctions, set to take effect Sunday.

Khalistani leader arrested in Canada

TORONTO, PTI: Canadian police have arrested a Khalistani leader, Inderjeet Singh Gosal, in Whitby, Ontario, over a dozen firearms-related offences, local media reported.

Ontario Police officers arrested Gosal on Friday for careless use of a handgun and other related offences, Global News reported on Monday. Gosal, 36, appeared in court in Oshawa on Monday and was charged along with Arman Singh, 23, of Toronto, and Jagdeep Singh, 41, a resident of New York, the report added.

Gosal runs a referendum campaign on Khalistan, a position he took over after its previous co-ordinator, Hardeep Singh Nijjar, was gunned down in Surrey. Inderjeet Singh Gosal is also a member of Sikhs for Justice(SFJ), CBC reported on Monday.

H-1B proposal favours higher-skilled workers

WASHINGTON, REUTERS

The Trump administration on Tuesday unveiled a proposal to overhaul the H-1B visa selection process, giving preference to higher-skilled and better-paid workers, according to a Federal Register notice. The move comes days after a White House proclamation introduced a $1,00,000 fee for the visas.

The new process, if finalised, would give heavier weight to applications by employers who pay high wages if annual requests for the visas exceed the statutory limit of 85,000, the notice said.

The move aims to better protect Americans from unfair wage competition from foreign workers, it said. President Donald Trump launched a wide-ranging immigration crackdown after taking office in January, including a push for mass deportations and trying to block citizenship for children of immigrants in the US illegally. In recent days, his administration intensified its focus on the H-1B program, popular with tech and outsourcing companies for hiring skilled foreign workers.

The Trump administration said on Friday it would ask companies to pay $1,00,000 per year for H-1B visas. Some big tech companies warned visa holders to stay in the US or quickly return, sparking a chaotic scramble to get back to the US. The White House later clarified that the fee would apply only to new visas.

The planned regulation posted on Tuesday would change an existing lottery process to obtain the visas if demand surpasses supply in a given year, creating wage tiers where higher-paying jobs would have a better chance of being selected.

The process to finalise a regulation can take months or even years.

Global spend on AI to top $2 trillion in 2026: Gartner

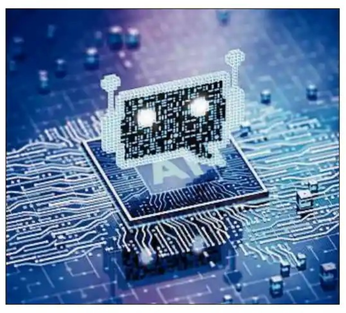
It will reach $1.5 trillion in the current calendar

BENGALURU, DHNS

With artificial intelligence (AI) being integrated into products such as smartphones and PCs, overall global AI spending is projected to top $2 trillion in 2026, according to business and technology insights company Gartner. On Tuesday, it said continuous demand for AI is expected to fuel investments in IT infrastructure.

It also forecasted that worldwide AI spending will total $1.5 trillion in 2025. Last year, total AI spending stood at $9,87,904 million.

"The forecast assumes continued investment in AI infrastructure expansion, as major hyper-scalers continue to increase investments in data centres with AI-optimised hardware and GPUs to scale their services," said John-David Lovelock, distinguished VP analyst at Gartner.



"The AI investment landscape is also expanding beyond traditional US tech giants, including Chinese companies and new AI cloud providers. Furthermore, venture capital investment in AI providers is providing additional tailwinds for AI spending," he added.

Gartner report showed that of the total $2 trillion spend in 2026, the AI services market will witness $3,24,669 million coming its way in 2026 from $2,82,556 million in 2025. Spending on Gen AI models will increase 81% from $14,200 million in 2025 to $25,766 million next year. Also, GenAI smartphone spending will increase about 32% to reach $3,93,297 million in 2026 from $2,98,189 in 2025.

Recently, in a separate report, Gartner revealed that sovereign AI and AI agents are expected to shape public sector adoption of AI within the next two to five years.

It predicted that by 2029, 60% of government agencies globally will leverage AI agents to automate over half of the citizen transactional interactions, up from less than 10% in 2025. AI agents are autonomous or semiautonomous software entities that use AI techniques to perceive, make decisions, take actions and achieve goals in their digital or physical environments, it added.

GST 2.0 ignites sales boom for car makers

It was roaring business for car dealers on Monday.

Maruti records highest-ever single day delivery of 25,000 cars

MAHESH KULKARNI
BENGALURU, DHNS

Automobile companies have received a phenomenal response from customers for new vehicles, a first in over three decades. On the very first day the new GST rates kicked in, passenger car leader Maruti Suzuki recorded 80,000 enquiries, and delivered over 25,000 cars. Its deliveries are expected to touch 30,000 shortly, said Partho Banerjee, Senior Executive Officer, Marketing and Sales, Maruti Suzuki India Ltd.

"Since September 18, when we announced additional price reduction (over and above GST), we have received 75,000 bookings, with nearly 15,000 bookings coming in every day—about 50% higher than usual. Demand for small cars has been especially strong, with bookings growing by nearly 50%," he said.

He said enquiries remain very high, and the company may even run out of stock for certain variants. Dealers are staying open late into the night to deliver cars to customers. Compared to last year, the overall response has been exceptionally strong.

Tarun Garg, whole-time director and COO, Hyundai Motor India Ltd (HMIL) said the auspicious start of Navratri, amplified by the momentum from GST 2.0 reforms, has infused strong positivity into the market. On day-1 alone, HMIL recorded around 11,000 dealer billings, which is its highest single-day performance in the last five years.

"This is a clear testament to robust festive sentiment and customer confidence. As one of the first automobile companies to fully pass on the full GST benefits to customers, we are delighted to make our customers' celebrations even more joyful. Looking ahead, we anticipate sustained festive demand and remain committed to delivering value and excitement to our customers," Garg added.

The start of Navaratri on Monday has brought in record retail activity for Tata Motors. Its dealerships opened early and extended their working hours to welcome the festive rush.

The company has delivered 10,000 vehicles and received over 25,000 enquiries on day-1 of Navratri marking a strong start to the festive season.

"We are seeing a very enthusiastic response from customers. Following the announcement of the new GST rates, we are passing on the full benefits to our customers, along with attractive festive offers. This has led to a sharp surge in enquiries and bookings, with a noticeable increase in showroom walk-ins, higher conversions, and a growing order book," said Amit Kamat, Chief Commercial Officer, Tata Motors Passenger Vehicles Ltd.

S&P retains India's GDP growth projection at 6.5%

Cuts inflation forecast; sees room for 25 bps rate cut by RBI in FY26

GYANENDRA KESHRI
NEW DELHI, DHNS

S&P Global on Tuesday kept its projection on India's economic growth for the current financial year unchanged at 6.5% saying resilient domestic demand would offset the impact of external headwinds following the increase in US tariffs and slower global growth.

In its 'Economic Outlook Asia-Pacific Q4' report, the global rating agency said India's GDP growth would be supported by "a largely benign monsoon season, cuts in the income and the goods and services tax (GST), and accelerating government investment."

S&P projection on the Indian economy is in line with the Reserve Bank of India's forecast of 6.5% growth for 2025-26. Fitch Ratings recently raised India's GDP growth projection for 2025-26 to 6.9% from its earlier forecast of 6.5% citing better than expected Q1 numbers.

In the quarter ended June 2025, India's gross domestic product (GDP) expanded by 7.8%, as per the latest official data. This was sharply higher than all estimates including the RBI's projection of 6.5%.

While favourable monsoon, GST reforms and the government's infrastructure push are key positives for the Indian economy, the imposition of high tariff by US President Donald Trump administration poses significant risk.

"Relative to our June assumptions on US tariffs, China has so far fared somewhat better than other Asian economies, and Southeast Asian emerging markets somewhat worse. India has been hit much harder than expected, and the region's developed economies broadly as expected," S&P Global said in its report.

The United States has imposed a 50% tariff on the majority of Indian imports. S&P Global said the US tariff would hit India's export-oriented manufacturing.

The rating agency has lowered its projection on India's annual inflation for 2025-26 to 3.2% citing sharper-than-expected decline in food inflation. According S&P, redirection of exports away from the US would also lead to softening of inflation in India and other Asia-Pacific economies.

"This leaves room for further monetary policy adjustments and we anticipate a 25 bps rate cut by the Reserve Bank of India this fiscal year," the rating agency said.

The monetary policy committee of the Reserve Bank of India is scheduled to meet from September 29-October 1 to deliberate on policy interest rates. The RBI kept key policy interest rates unchanged in August after lowering it cumulatively by 100 basis points in the previous three bi-monthly meetings.

Govt gives infra status to large ship building industry

NEW DELHI, PTI: In a bid to promote Make in India, the government has included large ships in the harmonised master list of infrastructure.

Commercial vessels having a gross tonnage of 10,000 or more, which are under Indian ownership and flag, will be qualified to get infrastructure status.

Besides, the commercial vessels having a gross tonnage of 1,500 or more which is built in India and are under Indian ownership and flag will get the status.

Large ships are included in the Harmonized Master List of Infrastructure sub-sectors by insertion of a new item in the category of transport and logistics, the finance ministry said in a gazette notification dated September 19.

The provision to include large ships above a specified size in the infrastructure harmonised master list (HML) has been announced in the Budget 2025-26.

Tata opens armoured vehicles plant in Morocco

RABAT, REUTERS: Tata Advanced Systems Limited, part of the Tata Group, opened a plant near Casablanca on Tuesday to produce armoured combat vehicles, in a move that dovetails with Morocco's recent efforts to stimulate a homegrown defence industry.

The facility will make 8x8 Wheeled Armoured Platform (WhAP) vehicles for the Moroccan army and for export across Africa, Morocco's defence administration said. The plant is expected to source 35% of its components locally, with plans to raise that to 50%, underscoring Morocco's aim to reduce reliance on foreign suppliers.

The move coincides with a push by Morocco, which has one of the largest defence budgets in Africa, to localise military production. In June, the country passed legislation to stimulate domestic defence manufacturing.

Infosys extends collaboration with Sunrise

BENGALURU, DHNS: IT services firm Infosys on Tuesday announced the expansion of its long-term collaboration with Switzerland's Sunrise, a telecommunications provider based in Zurich, to accelerate its IT transformation.

Infosys will leverage its expertise in AI, analytics, and data, along with elements of Infosys Topaz, an AI-first offering using generative AI technologies, to support Sunrise in its efforts to position itself as an AI-powered organisation. "This will help Sunrise unlock new business value by delivering enhanced speed, efficiency, and quality in operations through data-driven insights and intelligent automation," the company said.

Rupee hits record low as US tariff, visa policies heap pressure

MUMBAI, REUTERS

The rupee hit a record low on Tuesday, hurt by lingering concerns over the impact of steep U.S. tariffs and a sharp jump in H-1B visa fees, though likely central bank intervention helped limit the losses.

The currency slid to 88.7975 per dollar before closing at 88.7550, down 0.5% on the day in its steepest drop in nearly a month.

The rupee has fallen more than 3.5% this year, making it one of the region's worst performers.

Its latest slide followed a sharp hike in H-1B visa fees that threatens profits in India's IT sector, adding to pressure from 50% US tariffs on Indian goods, the highest in Asia.

Economists at HSBC estimate that the 5.4 million Indians in the US cumulatively send back about $33 billion in remittances to the country each year.

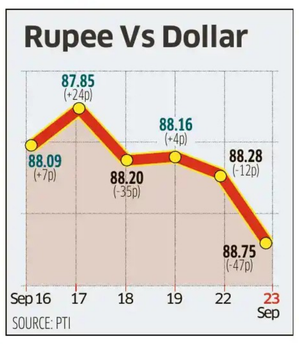
There are about 80,000 new visa applicants each year, and if they were to not get entry, remittance inflows could fall by about $500 million, they said in a Tuesday note.

"The risk is that more restrictions on services exports follow, and the lowering of the 50% tariff takes longer than markets are factoring in."

India's benchmark equity indexes, the BSE Sensex and Nifty 50, were little changed on the day but IT stocks declined 0.7%, adding to a 18% fall over the year so far even as the broader stock gauge has risen 6.5%.

On Tuesday, the central bank likely stepped in to support the rupee but did not appear inclined to defend a specific level, traders said, adding that its measured approach suggests it may allow a gradual weakening of the currency.

"The rupee appears to be reflecting the pressure on India's external sector even as domestic cues, such as recent tax cuts and strong business activity data, offer a positive impluse, said Dilip Parmar," a foreign exchange research analyst at HDFC Securities.



Rupee depreciation against $ to help exporters in short-run

NEW DELHI, PTI: Indian rupee slipping below the record 88.75 level against the US dollar will help enhance price competitiveness of Indian products in the international markets, but exporters cautioned that fluctuations could pose challenges at import front.

Import-dependent sectors such as gems and jewellery, petroleum and electronics may see lower benefits due to a rise in input costs, they said.

"The depreciation will definitely help exporters in the short run. But we need stability in the value against the $," Federation of Indian ExportOrganisations (FIEO) President S C Ralhan said.

Sharing similar views, Mumbai-based exporter and Technocraft Industries Ltd Founder Chairman S K Saraf said this will benefit the country's exports as domestic goods will become little competitive at a time when the US has imposed high tariffs.

"Our hardships will get mitigated to a certain extent. I expect that the rupee will reach 100 per dollar in the next 4-5 months. I think 100 will be the new normal," Saraf said.

Bengaluru's Microland opens new corporate office in New Jersey

BENGALURU, DHNS: Bengaluru-based Microland Ltd, an AI-first, platform-led technology infrastructure services company, announced on Tuesday that it has opened a new corporate office at Woodbridge Corporate Plaza, Iselin, New Jersey. This expansion comes at a time when the US and India are holding trade talks.

Founded by Pradeep Kar, the company employs over 4,200 people across offices and delivery centres in Asia, Australia, Europe, the Middle East and North America.

"We are investing in our people and technologies with an AI-first approach," said Sam Mathew, President, Microland. "With our new corporate office in Iselin, New Jersey, alongside our growing footprint through delivery centres in Seattle, Alpharetta, and Cincinnati, we are reinforcing our strong presence in the US and our commitment to delivering unmatched value and resilience to our customers," he added.

The company's operations are currently in more than 100 countries, and it brings in over 35 years of expertise in digital networks, cloud, data centres, workplaces and cybersecurity.

"Microland's continued investment in New Jersey underscores our state's position as a hub for innovation and technology," said New Jersey Governor Phil Murphy. "As enterprises embrace digital transformation and AI-led solutions, companies like Microland are critical in shaping the future of technology infrastructure," he said.

"Microland's decision to establish its new corporate office in Iselin is a testament to New Jersey's strength as a global hub for innovation and technology," said Welsey Mathews, President and CEO of Choose New Jersey.

He also added that this investment underscores the strong ties between New Jersey and India.

Flipkart sale attracts 45 lakh visitors

BENGALURU, DHNS: Ecommerce giant Flipkart said on Tuesday that during the Early Access of The Big Billion Days 2025, Flipkart Minutes recorded over 45 lakh visitors and a 2X rise in order volumes compared to regular days. It also said that with the recent GST reforms, customers are celebrating not just faster deliveries but also tangible savings. "Flipkart worked to ensure sellers passed on these benefits to the customers, making this festive season's purchases more rewarding," it said.

In the course of the first hour of 'Early Access' (between 12 AM - 1 AM), the fastest delivery for an iPhone was completed in under 3 minutes, Flipkart said.

With 1 in 5 shoppers opting for the smartphone exchange program during the peak hour, smartphones remained a festive favourite.

As compared to regular days, metro cities like Delhi, Mumbai, Bengaluru, and Kolkata saw a sharp 2X jump in orders.

Pune and the tricity market, namely Ambala, Chandigarh, and Panchkula, witnessed a 4X surge in total orders, followed by an increase in Tier 2+ markets like Jaipur, Patna, Kanpur, and Mysore, showcasing the growing demand of quick commerce beyond metros, the ecommerce company said.

Swiggy is exiting Rapido; selling out at Rs 2,400 cr to Prosus, Westbridge

BENGALURU, DHNS: Food delivery company Swiggy on Tuesday said its board approved the sale of its stake worth nearly Rs 2,400 crore in Rapido to Prosus, Westbridge Capital. In an exchange filing, Swiggy said it plans to sell 10 equity shares and 1,63,990 Series D compulsorily convertible preference shares held by the company in Roppen Transportation Services Private Limited (Rapido) to MIH Investments One BV, a company incorporated in the Netherlands.

"The purchaser and MIH India Food Holdings BV belong to the Prosus group and are under common control. MIFH is a public shareholder in the company holding approximately 23.31% shareholding in company as on June 30, 2025, and is a related party of the company," Swiggy added in the filing.

In yet another filing, Swiggy also informed of its board's approval to sell another set of 35,958 Series D compulsorily convertible preference shares (CCPS) held in Rapido to Setu AIF Trust, a fund registered under the SEBI (Alternative Investment Funds) Regulations (Westbridge) for a consideration of Rs 431.49 crore. This is not a related party transaction.

These developments follow Swiggy's statement on July 31, that it was "actively re-evaluating" its investment in Rapido, seeing a potential conflict of interest in the ride sharing app's plants to foray into food delivery business.

Swiggy also said its board of directors at their meeting held on September 23, 2025, considered and approved the sale and transfer of its quick commerce business under the brand name 'Instamart', along with all relevant assets, liabilities, permits and licenses, records, intellectual property, employees and contracts of the company to Swiggy Instamart Private Limited, an indirect step-down wholly-owned subsidiary of the company through a slump sale.

SOUTH INDIAN Bank Date: 23.09.2025

GOLD AUCTION NOTICE

KENGERI SATELLITE TOWN BRANCH:
1895 & 1895/A, 1st Main Road, 2nd Cross (Ring Road), Kengeri Satellite Town, BANGALORE-560 060.
Ph: 080-28482933 Email: br0583@sib.co.in

The Gold articles pledged under the following number/s at, **Kengeri Satellite Town Branch**- which are not cleared by payment of Bank dues even after serving registered notice and Gold articles pledged under the same number against which registered notices have been served/ returned undelivered will be sold in public auction or private treaty on as is where is condition at Branch premises as under or any other convenient date and time without further notice at the risk and responsibility of the pawners, if they are not released from the branch. Auction of Gold ornaments pledged under the following accounts will be held at **South Indian Bank, Kengeri Satellite Town Branch on 29.09.2025 at 12.00 pm. Kindly note that a Security deposit of Rs. 5000 will be collected before the auction, and the deadline for collection of the same is 11:50 a.m.**

Sl. No.	Name	A/c No.	Gross Wt (in gms)
1	SHIVA RAMA LINGAM M	583.653.16226	10.4

Bank reserves its rights to cancel/ adjourn the auction without giving any reason at any time. *Sd/-* **Manager**

Corporate Office Regd. Office: SIB House, T B Road, Mission Quarters, Thrissur, Kerala - 680001
Telephone Number : + 91-487-2420020, Fax Number : + 91-487-2420020, E-Mail : sibcorporate@sib.co.in,
Website : www.southindianbank.com. Corporate Identity Number: L65191KL1929PLC001017

SOUTH WESTERN RAILWAY

OPEN TENDER NOTICE No. 21/SBC/25 of 15.09.2025

The undersigned, on behalf of the President of India, Invites E-Tenders for the following works:

Sl.	Description of work	Approx Value
1	**Bangalore - Jolarpettai Section: Sub Work-I:** Increasing sleeper density from 1310 to 1540 for a length of 8.042 kms in Bengaluru Cantonment (SBC) yard Road No. 5, 6, 7, 14, 15 and 16 in SSE/PWay/Bengaluru Section. **Sub Work-II: Bangalore - Jolarpettai Section:** Through Rail Renewal (P) of existing 60 kg rails with 60kg/110 UTS Class 1 rails for a length of 1.7 km from 303/200-304/900 on Down line. **Sub Work-III: Bangalore-Jolarpettai Section:** Through fitting renewal (TFR) for a length of 15 kms. from 311/500-296/500 on Down line in SSE/P.Way/Kolar section. **Sub Work-IV: Bangalore Division:** New crossing station at Thurandahalli (TUHD) station in Yelahanka - Bangarpet section.	Rs. 1,20,64,689/-
2	**Bangalore - Jolarpettai section:** Construction of RUB at trespassing location at km 339/300-400 between Hoodi halt (HDIH) - Krishnarajapuram (KJM) stations. Size 1.0 x 6.0 x 3.5 by air pushing method. Maintenance Period is 6 months or one monsoon period whichever is later.	Rs. 4,02,26,845/-
3	**Bangalore - Jolarpettai section:** Provision of safety fencing with W-Beam metal barrier for 35.60kms (Asst. Divisional Engineer/Bengaluru Cantonment Section) in connection with Increasing sectional speed from 110 kmph to 130kmph. Maintenance period is 12 months. (Two Packet).	Rs. 14,45,94,105/-
4	**Asst. Divisional Engineer/Mandya Sub Division:** Proposed provision of Escalator on Platform - 4 at Kengeri (KGI). Maintenance period is 6 months or one monsoon period whichever is later.	Rs. 56,06,514/-
5	**Sub Work-I: Bangalore Cantonment (BNC):** Proposed construction of Type-III quarters (4 Units) (Stilt + ground floor) at Bangalore Cantonment (BNC). **Sub Work-II: Bangalore Cantonment (BNC):** Proposed construction of Type-III quarters (8 Units) at first and second floor over existing quarter at Bangalore Cant. (BNC). Maintenance period is 12 months. (Composite Tender).	Rs. 4,22,07,361/-
6	**Bengaluru - Sampige Road Section:** Construction of boundary wall for a length of 14 km in connection with the work of increasing sectional speed from 110 kmph to 130 kmph. Maintenance period is 12 months (Two packet).	Rs. 11,51,97,379/-

Last date for submission of bids:
Upto 15:00 Hrs. on 14.10.2025

For details log on: www.ireps.gov.in

Senior Divisional Engineer/Co-Ordination/Bengaluru

PUB/492/AAMO/PRB/SWR/2025-26

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JUIDCO Bhawan, Kutchery Chowk, Ranchi - 834001
E-Mail - pdt.juidco@gmail.com, juidcolimited@gmail.com
CIN: U45200JH2013SGC001752

NIT No.: JUIDCO/ NIT/CMP/JSR&DHN/2025 - 664
Date: 19.09.2025

Notice Inviting Tender
National Competitive Bidding
Tender Notice

1.	Name of the Work	Consultancy Services for Preparation of Comprehensive Mobility Plan in and around Jamshedpur and Dhanbad Cities in the State of Jharkhand for Next 25 Years
2.	Mode of submission of bids	Online Tender
3.	Tender Fee &Earnest Money Deposit (EMD) (In INR)	Cost of Tender Document: 10,000/- *(Rupees Ten Thousand) only (Non-refundable)* Earnest Money Deposit (EMD) – Rs. 2,00,000/- *(Rs. Two Lakhs) only*
4.	Date & Time of Publication of Tender on Website	23.09.2025; 1400 Hrs.
5.	Last Date & Time of Bid Submission	07.10.2025; 1700 Hrs.
6.	Date & Time of Bid Opening	08.10.2025; 1700 Hrs.
7.	Tender Inviting Authority	Jharkhand Urban Infrastructure Development Company Ltd,
8.	Address of	JUIDCO Bhawan, Kutchery Chowk, Ranchi, Jharkhand- 834001
9.	Helpline no.	+ 91 651 2225878

Note: Only e-tender will be accepted
Further details are available on Jharkhand Government e-procurement website https://jharkhandtenders.gov.in

Sd/-
Project Director (Technical)
JUIDCO Ltd. Ranchi.

PR 362608 Urban Development(25-26).D

B'luru's big push for translation

A non-profit will launch a literary journal, a publishing house, and a digital platform to promote works from diverse Indian languages

TINI SARA ANIEN
TEAM METROLIFE

Vivek Shanbhag, Sunil Shanbhag, Deepa Ganesh, Madhuri Kulkarni, Suresh Anagalli, D S Chougule, Rajiv Nayak, Vishala Mahale, and Ashok Chikkaparappa at a mentorship programme for 'Bahuvachana Tamasha Fellowship for Translation'.

Bengaluru's Bahuvachana Trust has launched an initiative to translate Indian language works into English and make them accessible worldwide. It will comprise a literary journal, a publishing house, and a digital platform. It aims to create a sustainable ecosystem for translation.

The initiative is called Hyphen. Currently, the website is live, but the three verticals are slated to launch in the first half of 2026.

The name is inspired by poet-scholar A K Ramanujan, who described himself "as a hyphen between India and the US", says Bengaluru-based writer Vivek Shanbhag, who is closely associated with the project. "A hyphen connects different things. Translation, in essence, does the same — it bridges cultures, languages, and ways of looking at the world," he explains.

Designed as a collaborative platform, Hyphen will bring together writers and translators across borders.

Three verticals

The first vertical is a literary journal in English, called 'Hyphen: Connecting Literatures'. It will be available in print and digital formats. It will feature curated translations from across India, highlighting the depth and diversity of Indian language writing. "Each issue will be a curated anthology representing multiple writers," says Shanbhag.

Hyphen Publications, the second vertical, will be dedicated to translating landmark Indian language works into English, produced to international standards. Shanbhag emphasises that translation "requires time, deep cultural understanding, and strong editorial support — resources often missing in general publishing houses". Translation is their singular focus, he adds.

The third vertical, Hyphen Digital Platform, will provide access to digital books and magazines. "Digital accessibility is crucial today," Shanbhag explains.

Additionally, Hyphen intends to host translation workshops, literary seminars, fellowship programmes, and other cultural events.

Regional writers need their due

Shanbhag's commitment to translation is deeply personal. "As a reader, I want to explore what is being written in Malayalam, Tamil, Odia, Assamese, and beyond," he explains.

M S Sriram, founding trustee of the Bahuvachana Trust, a writer, and professor at IIM Bangalore, says the aim of Hyphen is to place Indian literature on the global map. "Translations are happening, but they remain largely confined to the Indian market. Indian English writers have broken through internationally, but regional language writers haven't," he says.

He believes editorial rigour and quality are key to good translation. "We want translations that we can be proud of — work that appeals to international readers," he adds.

Hyphen will be guided by an advisory council of eminent writers and literary figures from India and abroad, including Geetanjali Shree, Perumal Murugan, Namita Gokhale, K R Meera, Christopher Merrill, and Hansda Sowvendra Shekhar, as well as Sudhir Sitapati, CEO and managing director of a leading FMCG company.

Shanbhag says Hyphen is a long-term cultural project, and any collaboration that furthers translation is welcome. The initiative is looking for editors, translators, writers, designers, and digital marketing professionals.

For details, visit the-hyphen.in

'Follow Japan and Korea's model'

Kannada author Vasudhendra advocates for such initiatives, noting that Indian literature is often seen only through the lens of English writing. "Few realise that our regional literatures are vast, diverse, and often superior in content," he said. He said that Japan and Korea succeeded by building international publishing networks and promoting translations, and India must do the same.

Kannada writer Nataraj Huliyar, who taught translation studies at Bangalore University for nearly two decades, says platforms that identify and train translators are essential. "However, decisions on what to translate and who translates what need a systematic approach," he added. Poet Prathibha Nandakumar says awards and fellowships for translations have grown recently, and Hyphen will add to the momentum. "A good book going into other languages is always welcome (sic)," she said.

4-day film festival on water opens

The 12th edition of Voices from the Waters, an international travelling film festival, will be held in Bengaluru from September 24 to 27.

It is organised by the Bangalore Film Society. The four-day festival will screen about 40 films from around the world on the theme, 'The Future of Water. The Future of Life'. Each screening will be followed by a discussion. Italian filmmaker Nicolò Bongiorno's 2020 documentary 'Songs of the Water Spirits' is the opening film.

Other films include 'I am the River, The River is Me' by Petr Lom, 'The Fisherman and the Banker' by Sheena Sumaria, 'The Sea and Seven Villages' by Himansu Khatua and 'Journey with the River Cauvery' by Bhavani G S.

'Songs of the Water Spirits' is the opening film of the festival.

'Voices from the Waters', September 24 to 27, 9 am to 7 pm at Wadia Hall, Indian Institute of World Culture, Basavanagudi. Entry free. Registration link on bangalorefilmsociety.com

More B'luru women are taking AMH test

Career and health concerns are driving more women to monitor their ovarian reserve, say doctors

TINI SARA ANIEN
TEAM METROLIFE

Over the past five years, fertility experts have noted a 20-60% rise in awareness about the Anti-Müllerian Hormone (AMH) test among women in Bengaluru. The test measures a woman's egg count and fertility potential. It costs between Rs 1,500 to Rs 3,000 according to the lab, and is said to have an accuracy of 85-95%.

Dr Amitha N, consultant fertility specialist at an IVF centre in Electronic City, has observed a 40-50% jump. "Earlier, we had to explain what the test was about. Now, many women walk in with their AMH results and ask us to interpret them," she says.

The specialists *Metrolife* spoke to attribute this shift to social media, health awareness campaigns, the growing visibility of egg-freezing programmes, and open conversations about family planning at workplaces.

Postponing pregnancy

Dr Shilpa Ellur, senior consultant in reproductive medicine and high-risk obstetrics, says almost 90% of her patients take the test to decide whether to delay pregnancy.

Dr Amitha adds that for many women, the AMH test is now part of routine family planning. She says 40-50% of her patients use it to check if they can safely postpone pregnancy for work, higher education, or travel. Women with PCOS are including the AMH test in broader diagnostics, as also those who are at risk of premature menopause, often signalled by irregular or lighter periods. "Results should always be interpreted along with ultrasound scans," she adds.

Dr Priya S P Patil, consultant obstetrician and gynaecologist at a Rajajinagar hospital, says many unmarried women in their late 20s and early 30s seek the test to understand their fertility timeline or explore egg freezing. The test is also used in special cases, such as where women have lost an ovary, undergone ovarian surgery, or are preparing for cancer treatment.

Backup plan

Dr Amitha says most women taking the test are aged 30-37 and work in corporate sectors. "They want to buy a house, settle financially, and get a promotion before having children," says Dr Shilpa. She recalls a 32-year-old patient who froze her eggs before leaving to study in the US. "She would be 35 by the time she returned, so she wanted a backup plan," she explains.

Dr Mahesh Koregol, senior clinical director and fertility specialist in Koramangala, notes that relationship uncertainties also drive some women to delay parenthood. "In some cases, women in their early 20s show AMH levels similar to those nearing menopause," he warns. AMH levels are generally considered normal between 2 and 4 nanograms per ml. Levels above this range may indicate possible PCOS, while levels below 2 suggest a low ovarian reserve. A reading below 1 requires immediate medical attention.

But Dr Manjula N V, consultant obstetrician and gynaecologist at a hospital at M S Ramaiah Nagar, offers a word of caution: "Ovarian reserves decline steadily after 35. A good AMH result today doesn't guarantee that it's safe to wait for pregnancy until 40."

Some experts believe that with rising awareness, the AMH test could soon become part of routine fertility check. "It might even start influencing marriage proposals, since more women now face low ovarian reserve and early menopause between 30 and 35," says Dr Shilpa.

One-woman act on gender and identity

TEAM METROLIFE

Mumbai-based theatre company QTP Entertainment is bringing the critically acclaimed one-woman performance 'Khatijabai of Karmali Terrace' to Bengaluru. An adaptation of Stella Kon's 'Emily of Emerald Hill', it is directed by Quasar Thakore Padamsee, and features Jayati Bhatia.

'Khatijabai of Karmali Terrace' was first performed in 2004 at Prithvi Theatre Festival, Mumbai. It tells the story of a woman's struggle for agency in a patriarchal, male-dominated society.

Jayati Bhatia in 'Khatijabai of Karmali Terrace'.

Quasar says he was able to understand his grandmother better through the play. "I never knew her, but by basing the character of Khatija on her, I got an opportunity to understand the India she inhabited and the social and gender politics she had to negotiate. That gave me a much greater appreciation of my grandmother," he says.

Did the play go through any changes? He says, "We keep tweaking the work based on how our understanding of things changes."

Quasar finds the different responses of the audience interesting. He recalls a moment from the play when Khatija is ridiculed for mispronouncing the name of a town in the UK, and says, "Recent audiences seem to be more responsive to her awkwardness at that moment."

Jayati Bhatia is best known for her performances in TV serials and webseries. Her theatre performances include 'The Vagina Monologues', 'Going Solo Part 1' and 'Mahatma Vs Gandhi'. She was praised for her work in 2024 OTT series 'Heeramandi'.

'Khatijabai of Karmali Terrace', September 26, 7.30 pm and September 27, 3.30 pm and 7.30 pm at Ranga Shankara, J P Nagar. Tickets online.

Runaway kids seek work, break from family disputes

Two children missing from Kerala were found at a railway station in the city last week

BARKHA KUMARI
TEAM METROLIFE

Since 2024, the RPF has rescued 278 children from the KSR City Railway Station.
PIC FOR REPRESENTATION. DH PHOTO/B K JANARDHAN

Since 2024, the Railway Protection Force (RPF) has rescued 278 vulnerable children at the Krantivira Sangolli Rayanna (KSR) City Railway Station. In the same period, 177 were rescued at Yeshwantpur, 84 at Bengaluru Cantonment, and 40 at Sir M Visvesvaraya Terminal at Baiyappanahalli. Most were boys; nearly four times as many as girls.

As per reports, two children missing from Arookutty in Kerala were found at a city railway station in a joint operation by the Bengaluru police and the RPF last week.

RPF's Operation Nanhe Farishte rescues and reunites children in need of care and protection. An RPF official says most cases involve child labour, followed by runaways. Four cases of kidnapping have been reported at the KSR station this year, all involving minor girls who had left their homes in Maharashtra, Odisha, Punjab, and Karnataka with boys. Though parents had filed these as kidnappings, he said they turned out to be "love cases". No child trafficking incidents have been reported recently.

"Most child labour cases involve children from north and northeast India. They are 12 to 18 years old, and come with their parents' permission. They look for work in factories or as security guards and painters. Runaway cases, on the other hand, largely involve children from Karnataka in the 14-18 age group. They leave after disputes at home over studies, or out of curiosity to see Bengaluru city, its cricket stadium and festivals. Some come looking for jobs in garment factories and hotels without informing anyone," he added.

RPF teams identify vulnerable children by observing body language — those looking nervous, forlorn, or hesitant to share contact details of their parents. Food vendors, porters, ticket inspectors and auto drivers are also trained to spot such children in and around railway stations, and report such cases. The watch is intensified when trains arrive.

On being rescued, some children request not to be sent back. "Girls say they are overburdened with household work," said a child rescue specialist at Yeshwantpur station. Such children often carry a small bag with a few clothes. "But recently, a girl travelling with a boy from Pune was found carrying over Rs 2 lakh in cash. They had pawned a mangalsutra. The girl said they were out travelling, but the boy claimed she had forced him to accompany her. They had also gone to Tirupati," he said.

In another recent case at Yeshwantpur station, a night duty staffer, acting on an alert by the control room, found a minor couple travelling from Telangana.

Helplines to report vulnerable children

1098 (Childline); **139** (Railway enquiry); **112** (Emergency).

EVENTS

Contemporary art

Leading Sri Lankan contemporary artist Raja Segar will exhibit his works for the first time in Bengaluru at an exhibition titled 'Melody of Hues' at Saanchi Gallery, Bangalore International Centre, Domlur. It will be on view on September 26 (5-8 pm) and September 26 and 27 (11 am-8 pm). His work reflects cultural heritage, symbolic geometry, and emotive use of colour.

Fusion concert

'Sandhya Swaranjali', a concert featuring evening ragas, Bollywood tunes, and fusion tracks from Coke Studio, will be held on September 27, 7 pm, at Atta Galatta, Indiranagar. It will feature Simran Senani (vocals), Ram Mohan Rao (harmonium), Prahlad Deshpande (tabla), and Ravi Teja (guitar). Tickets online. For details, call 96325 10126.

Kailasam's play

Antharanga theatre group will stage T P Kailasam's play 'Huttadalli Hutta', on September 27 and 28, 7.15 pm, at Dr C Ashwath Kala Bhavana, N R Colony. Tickets online.

Rare Indian miniatures on display

An exhibition of miniature paintings at Gallery G, Lavelle Road, aims to capture the history and culture of India through art.

Titled 'Court to collector: A miniature legacy', it opened on September 22 and will be on view until November 30.

One of the works at the show.

The artworks on display are from the private collection of the Virji family. The family built the collection from exhibitions they attended across the world between the 1970 and the 1990s. The miniatures depict courtly scenes, religious figures and symbols, and historic events. A particularly interesting piece bears the image of Krishna against a bright red backdrop, surrounded by women, cattle, flowers and trees against a muted palette of grey and blue.

A total of 58 pieces are part of the collection. The works are by unknown 14th century artists.

The exhibition is an attempt to make a case for collecting art as a means of documenting tradition and history. It also aims to revive interest in the miniature art of India, says Sandeep Kumar Maini, founder, Gallery G.

Until November 30. At Gallery G, Lavelle Road. For details, call 2221 9275.

Now serving lectures by experts with a side of drink

A new series is hosting talks at bars, on topics as varied as bats and the heat crisis

BARKHA KUMARI
TEAM METROLIFE

Lectures now have a new address in Bengaluru — the bar. On Sunday evening, around 70 people gathered at a restaurant-cum-bar in Indiranagar for a talk on visual thinking. With pens, notebooks, tablets and drinks in hand, they listened as expert Kaustubh Khare delivered his presentation on a screen.

The talk was part of Pint of View (PoV), a Sunday sundowner lecture series launched a month ago. It aims to bring scientific research out of university campuses and into informal spaces, while also finding an audience for other bold ideas. PoV has also hosted sessions on the secret lives of bats, the meaning behind Indian textiles, and India's growing heat crisis.

PoV is run by Harsh Snehanshu and Shruti Sah, the duo behind the silent reading movement Cubbon Reads, along with machine learning engineer Meghna Choudhary. The idea was inspired by a similar event series in the US, called Lectures on Tap. Snehanshu calls PoV a "grown-up edition" of school lectures, one that comes without grades or gatekeeping. He says hosting lectures in centrally located bars makes learning accessible.

The events are ticketed (Rs 500 and up), which Shruti says is proof that people are coming for the love of learning. "We have had startup founders, climate researchers, artists, musicians, dancers, and even real estate professionals come over," she notes. Most attendees are in their 20s and 30s, though people in their 50s and 60s also join occasionally.

For speakers like Khare, a scholar of semiotics and design, the experience has been rewarding. After his talk ended at 5.30 pm on Sunday, he fielded questions until 7.10 pm from a diverse crowd that included medical practitioners, lawyers, and dancers, among others. By contrast, he points out, classrooms often have homogenous audiences who attend more out of obligation than interest. Khare believes initiatives like PoV challenge India's attitude toward learning, which is widely seen as a phase — "something you do only in school or college". They also give researchers a chance to see how their work resonates with the public, he adds. For attendees like author Aayush Puthran, the series is a refreshing "package of learning and socialising". "Many mixers in Bengaluru are dating-oriented, which gets annoying," he explains.

PoV has talks lined up on lunar exploration, the unreliability of memory, the circular economy of spent grains, the hidden lives of moths, and how hummingbirds conserve energy. The organisers plan to increase the frequency of these lectures, and add experiential tours to the mix.

For upcoming lectures, visit @pintofview.club on Instagram.

A talk on the toll of India's growing heat crisis attracted a crowd of 80 at a bar in Indiranagar. PIC CREDIT: SHOAIB KALSEKAR

Young Nishchit dreams big and 'skating' beyond the normal

Eight-year-old Bengaluru boy hopes to represent India at the international stage

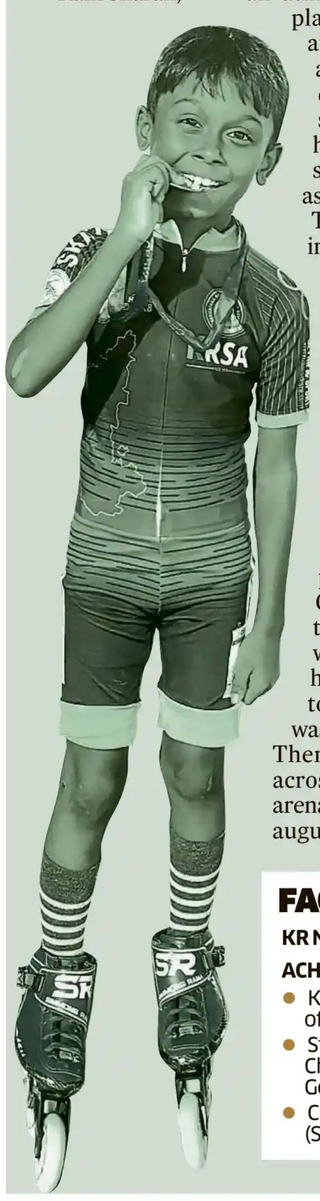
VIGNESH BHARADWAJ
BENGALURU, DHNS

Skating does not pull the Indian sporting mainstream's attention and certainly does not catch the eye of many tweens.

In a country where every kid, in almost every street, aspires to play cricket or football, KR Nishchit, an eight-year-old from Bengaluru, is one of those exceptions, attempting beyond just the normal.

With each morning, that endeviour only grew bigger with him until he was strong enough to wear his skates and fly on a rink to become the youngest in the Karnataka's Achievers Book of Records, winning 16 medals at just six.

Ram Charan, an athlete himself, played cricket at the school and club level, and the sporting bug has bitten his son Nishchit as well.



That resulted in him joining the AVS Academy at four and a half years old. Nishchit is now eight and has an array of medals hanging in his house.

"So it happened during Covid. Kids in the streets were skating, he wanted to learn but was very young. Then we came across a skating arena that was inaugurated in our area, and we put him there; that's how it all began," Ram Charan tells *DH*.

What started off as a way to spend time during lockdown, has now taken more than half of Nishchit's day.

"Coaching starts at six in the morning. We get there at 5:40 am. The class goes on for an hour. He then attends school and returns home by 3:30. He then completes his homework before he goes to play with his friends. At around 7, he attends skating practice again for an hour, which has only professionals in the academy."

The training doesn't stop there. That's just the five-day cycle. And on weekends, when there's no school, Nishchit travels 15-20 km from home for road practice at 5:45 am in the morning.

This schedule, almost a seven-day training week, is tough but it has not stopped Nishchit. And the results? Racing through career checkpoints, of course.

"He started getting medals in school and that motivated him to practice more. He was picked from the district selections in Bangalore. He progressed into the state selections, before getting picked for the India nationals. So the progress has been good," points out Ram Charan.

Nishchit, however, is a kid of few words and a lot of his talking is done through his skates.

"I picked skating because I like to go fast and one day I want to become an international skater for my country..."

While the path in age groups might have seen a steady rise, it has not all been easy for the Bengaluru boy.

"He was on the other side of the exit group in both age groups 5-7 and 6-8, dealing with tougher competition, racing against kids who were more mature. There was a certain dip last year. However, he has been training hard," Charan added.

Going international remains Nishchit's ultimate finish line with wheels under his feet, but for now, it will be one step at a time. And that starts in Gurgaon in two months time at the CBSE Nationals, where he will be one among the few skaters from South Zone.

For feedback, email to dhsports@deccanherald.co.in

FACT FILE

KR Nishchit Age: 8

ACHIEVEMENTS

- Karnataka's Achievers Book of Records
- State Ranking Championships (Mysore): 2 Golds
- CBSE Nationals Qualification (South Zone)
- Open District Selection Trials: Bronze
- Karnataka state selections (Mangaluru): Silver
- Baandhava State level Championships: Gold

FOOTBALL

Dembele on top of the world

Spain's Bonmati completes a hat-trick of Ballon d'Or

PARIS, AFP

Paris Saint-Germain's Ousmane Dembele (right) and Barcelona's Aitana Bonmati pose with their respective Ballon d'Or awards in Paris on Monday night. AFP

Paris Saint-Germain winger Ousmane Dembele won the Ballon d'Or on Monday as a reward for his starring role in the club's Champions League triumph last season, while Spain's Aitana Bonmati claimed the women's prize for the third year in a row.

Dembele, 28, edged out Barcelona sensation Lamine Yamal to succeed Manchester City and Spain midfielder Rodri, who took the trophy in 2024, as the winner of the most prestigious individual prize in football -- an award that for many years had been dominated by Lionel Messi and Cristiano Ronaldo.

Former Borussia Dortmund and Barcelona forward Dembele, who was part of the France team that won the World Cup in 2018, scored 35 goals in all competitions as PSG claimed a French league and cup double as well as winning the Champions League.

With Dembele converted into a centre-forward following Kylian Mbappe's departure for Real Madrid, PSG went on to hammer Inter Milan 5-0 in the final in Munich to win the European Cup for the first time in their history.

"I really don't have the words. It was an incredible season with PSG," an emotional Dembele said on the stage at the Theatre du Chatelet in central Paris.

He added that his boss Luis Enrique -- who won the award for club coach of the year -- had been "like a father" to him.

"It is an individual trophy but it was really the collective that won it," insisted Dembele, who was one of nine members of the triumphant PSG team from last season to be nominated for the prize.

"The Ballon d'Or has not really been an objective for me in my career but I worked hard for the team to win the Champions League."

The 18-year-old Yamal, who was a team-mate of Dembele's at Barcelona when he first broke through in 2023, did earlier win the Kopa Trophy for the best player aged under 21 -- the second year running he has taken that award.

Dembele was at the ceremony to pick up his prize while his PSG teammates were losing 1-0 in a Ligue 1 game in Marseille at the same time -- that match had been scheduled for Sunday but was put back 24 hours due to bad weather in the south of France.

Barcelona and Spain midfielder Bonmati won the women's prize by edging out her international teammate Mariona Caldentey, with whom she played in the Spain side who were beaten on penalties by England in the Women's Euro 2025 final.

Bonmati, 27, also lost the Women's Champions League final with her club last season, at the hands of Caldentey's Arsenal.

WINNERS LIST

- **Men's Ballon d'Or:** Ousmane Dembele (PSG)
- Women's Ballon d'Or: Aitana Bonmati (Barcelona)
- **Men's Kopa Trophy:** Lamine Yamal (Barcelona)
- Women's Kopa Trophy: Vicky Lopez (Barcelona)
- **Men's Yashin Trophy:** Gianluigi Donnarumma (PSG)
- Women's Yashin Trophy: Hannah Hampton (Chelsea)
- **Men's Gerd Muller Trophy:** Viktor Gyokeres (Sporting CP/Arsenal)
- Women's Gerd Muller Trophy: Ewa Pajor (Barcelona)
- **Men's Johan Cruyff Trophy:** Luis Enrique (PSG)
- Women's Johan Cruyff Trophy: Sarina Wiegman (England national team)
- **Men's Club of the Year Trophy:** PSG
- Women's Club of the Year Trophy: Arsenal (England)

Ikshan steals show at motocross meet

BENGALURU, DHNS

Petronas TVS Racing's Ikshan Shanbhag clinched all three motos to bag the overall title and the best rider award at the inaugural round of the Auto Man FMSCI Indian National Motocross Championships here.

The 18-year-old from Satara bounced back from a first-lap crash in the opening moto to script a solid come-from-behind victory. Astride his TVS TR 300, Ikshan carried the momentum into the next two, pulling off the fastest lap of the weekend (1min, 06sec).

Multiple national champion Rugved Barguje while Jinendra Sangave settled for second and third place finish overall.

TVS teammate Banteilang Jyrwa of Shillong added more silverware for the factory outfit with wins in the Indian Open and Indian Expert classes, completing a memorable double.

He edged past Imran Pasha in a close fight in the Open category and later dominated the Expert field ahead of Kathir and Faraz Pasha.

The championship also celebrated emerging talent, with Bhairav winning the Junior MX1 (12–14 yrs, 85cc), and Vismay topping the Junior MX2 (U-11, 65cc).

In the Indian Novice class, Shailesh edged Kathir, while Faraz Pasha completed the podium ahead of veteran Sanjay Somashekar. A highlight was the spirited ride by Aleena Mansur Shaikh, the only woman competitor, who impressed with a podium finish in Junior MX1's second moto, underscoring motocross's growing inclusivity.

Ikshan Shanbhag poses with his spoils.

Atiqa makes heads turn in Slovakia

ORECHOVA (SLOVAKIA), PTI

India's racing sensation Atiqa Mir **(in pic)** finished an impressive fourth after being in the running for a famous victory for the majority of the action-packed race in the Champions of the Future Academy (COFTA) karting series here.

Atiqa showed exemplary race craft to put herself in a winning position before narrowly missing out on a podium finish in round 4.1 of COFTA, a series which is keenly tracked by the top brass of the F1 Academy.

The 10-year-old, who won in the DAMC series in Dubai earlier this month, is the first Indian to be supported by Formula 1 and is part of the F1 Academy DYD program

Atiqa finished just 0.32 seconds behind the race winner in the mini category, reflecting the highly competitive nature of a male dominated grid at Slovakia Karting Centre.

Wonderful Lady wins main event

DELHI RESULTS

Rajinder-trained Wonderful Lady, ridden by Yash Saini, won the Nandan Plate, the feature event of the Delhi races on Tuesday.

1. All The Best Plate - 1000M: Real Stuff (Rajesh Sehgal) Rakesh 1; Stylish Dancer (Aasif Khan) 2; Poly Czar (Faizan Khan) 3; Real Boss (Arjun) 4; Wb: Dist, 3/4, 1L. T: 1:01.32. TB: Magan Singh. Fav: Real Stuff.

2. Nandan Plate - 1000M: Wonderful Lady (Rajinder) Yash Saini 1; Angel In My Heart (Arjun) 2; Ashawa Tokyo (Md Talib) 3; Ashwa Parth (MB Qureshi) 4; Wb: 1-3/4, 1-3/4L, Nk. T: 0:59.15. Rajinder. Fav: Ashwa Tokyo.

3. Hanging Out Plate - 1000M: Bellagio (Ravinder Pal Singh) AS Peter 1; Danny's Girl (Angad) 2; Ashwa Frankie (K Paswan) 3; Bison (Lava Kumar) 4; Wb: 5-1/4, 1, 1/2L, Hd. T: 1:00.99. TB: S Nawab. Fav: Bellagio.

4. Great Expectation Plate (Div I) - 1200M: Emperor Ashoka (Rajinder) Rakesh 1; Ashwa Jimbabe (AS Peter) 2; Equal Luxury (Arjun) 3; Maya (Varun) 4; Wb: 2-1/4, 1/2L, Nk. T: 1:14.24. TB: Rajinder. Fav: Ashwa Jimbabe.

5. Great Expectation Plate (Div II) - 1200M: Shera (K Ali Khan) Varun 1; Personal (Rakesh) 2; Lemon Pie (K Paswan) 3; Euphoria (Angad) 4; Wb: 1-3/4, 3, 3/4L. T: 1:14.70. TB: K Ali Khan. Fav: Havana Sky.

6. Metropolitan Plate - 1200M: Ashwa Sultan (Mrs Anita Chauhan) AS Peter 1; Shahzada (Faizan Khan) 2; Mystic Zlatan (Sauav Rawat) 3; Last Romance (MB Qureshi) 4; Wb: 6, 3/4, 2L. T: 1:13.53. TB: S Nawab. Fav: Ashwa Sultan.

Bengaluru dividends

I race: Rs 10w; 10, 34p; Fc: Rs 35; Q: Rs 20; Shp: Rs 25; Thp: Rs 20; Tri: Rs 78 & 53; Ex: Rs 56 & 20.

II race: Rs 55w; Rs 17, 15, 11p; Fc: Rs 269; Q: Rs 90; Shp: Rs 19; Thp: Rs 86; Tri: Rs 357 & 60; Ex: Rs 937 & 1,262.

III race: Rs 12w; 10, 14, 15p; Fc: Rs 28; Q: Rs 26; Shp: Rs 23 Thp: Rs 32; Tri: Rs 101 & 61; Ex: Rs 195 & 62.

IV race: Rs 63w; 11, 10, 18p; Fc: Rs 125; Q: Rs 21; Shp: Rs 69; Thp: Rs 44; Tri: Rs 635 & 579; Ex: Rs 2,601 & 1.254.

V race: Rs 24w; 13, 19, 71p; Fc: Rs 1,020; Q: Rs 320; Shp: Rs 51; Thp: Rs 194; Tri: Rs 11,903 & 5,101; Ex: Rs 32,577 (c/o).

VI race: Rs 22w; 12, 13, 58p; Fc: Rs 33; Q: Rs 21; Shp: Rs 31; Thp: Rs 103; Tri: Rs 500 & 339; Ex: Rs 2,960 & 662.

Jackpot: Rs 14,419 (6). **Runner-up:** Rs 3,090 (12). **Treble:** Rs 2,277 (7).

Pranavi finishes T-42 in La Sella

ALICANTE, PTI: Indian golfer Pranavi Urs carded an even par 72 to sign off in T-42 position in the La Sella Open here in Spain.

Pranavi finished with a birdie for 2-over for the week which helped her move from T-47 to T-42.

Hitaashee Bakshi (76) ended T-53rd place at 6-over total for the week.

Strong team for motorsports C'ships

BENGALURU, DHNS

A 30-strong Indian contingent departs for Sri Lanka later in the week to participate in the FIA Asia Pacific Motorsports Championship 2025 be held in Bandaragama from September 26 to 28. The competitors selected by The Federation of Motor Sports Clubs of India (FMSCI) will participate in Karting (Sprint, Endurance, Slalom), Auto Gymkhana, Autocross and E-Sports (I-Racing, Assetto Corsa) disciplines.

The contingent, which is a mix of youth and experience, includes four female competitors – Arshi Gupta (Faridabad) and Mariah Thacker (Mumbai) in Karting (Slalom and Endurance); Bengaluru's Pragathi Gowda in Autocross and Tarushi Vikram from Chikmagaluru in Auto Gymkhana. India have 24 entries in Karting across Cadet (8-12 years), Junior (12-15 years) and Senior (Above 16 years) categories.

Karting Sprint – Cadet: B Rayan Gouda (Bengaluru), Arshi Gupta (Faridabad) and Rehan Khan Rasheed (Chennai). **Junior:** Kiaan Shah (Mumbai) and B Kumar Gouda (Bengaluru). **Senior:** Aarav Dewan (Gurugram), Thomas Jacob George (Kottayam), and Akshat Mishra (Bengaluru). **Karting Endurance – Senior:** Neel Shah (Mumbai), Mariah Thacker (Mumbai), Hitansh Gupta (Mumbai) and Vedant Mathur (Mumbai).

Pragati Gowda

Karting Slalom – Cadet: Aaruthran Prabu (Tiruchengode,Tamil Nadu), Atharva Hemani (Mumbai), Siddharth Bhanushali (Pune) and Yohan Acharya (Mumbai). Junior: Neil Chandra (Goa) and Agastya Crasto (Mumbai). Senior: Karthik Rajendran (Bengaluru), Khrys Nevin Francis (Thrissur), Neel Shah (Mumbai), Vedant Mathur (Mumbai), VV Viswajit (Chennai) and Mariah Thacker (Mumbai).

E-SPORTS – I-Racing: Rishabh Banerjee (Ranchi) and Sai Shiva Makesh Shankaran (Pune). Assetto Corsa: Sahil Khanna (Gurugram).

Auto Gymkhana: Tarushi Vikram (Chikmagaluru), Prateek Dalal (Bahadurgarh) and Achintya Mehrotra (New Delhi). Autocross: Philippos Matthai (New Delhi), Pragathi Gowda (Bengaluru) and Chetan Shivram (Bengaluru).

Stokes to lead England in Ashes

LONDON, AFP: Ben Stokes was named as England captain for the Ashes tour as the squad was announced on Tuesday for five Tests in Australia.

All-rounder Stokes missed the final Test against India at the Oval, which started on July 31, with a shoulder injury.

But England chiefs said he "remains on track to be available for the start of the Test series" against arch rivals Australia, which starts in November.

Harry Brook has been confirmed as England's vice-captain, replacing Ollie Pope, who is in the 16-man squad as a batter.

Durham fast bowler Mark Wood returns after his recovery from a left knee injury, while Somerset spinner Shoaib Bashir is available again following a finger injury.

Durham seamer Matthew Potts and Surrey batting all-rounder Will Jacks are both included.

England Ashes squad: Ben Stokes (capt), Jofra Archer, Gus Atkinson, Shoaib Bashir, Jacob Bethell, Harry Brook, Brydon Carse, Zak Crawley, Ben Duckett, Will Jacks, Ollie Pope, Matthew Potts, Joe Root, Jamie Smith (wkt), Josh Tongue, Mark Wood.

KARNATAKA URBAN WATER SUPPLY & DRAINAGE BOARD KALABURAGI ZONE, KALABURAGI
Office of the Chief Engineer KUWS & D Board, Kalaburagi Zone,
"Jalbhavan", Rajapur, Kusnoor Road, Kalaburagi – 585105. Tel : 08472-220817,
Fax : 08472-260818 E-mail ID : kwbceklb14@gmail.com

No. KWB/CE(K)/TEC/WSS/Nag Phase-4/2025-26/725 Date : 22-09-2025

-: NOTICE INVITING TENDER :-

1) Detail of Work: "Construction of 5.0LL OHT on 15 mtr staging at Zone-7 of Lingasugur Town under Nagarotthana phase-4". (Lumpsum tender) **(Work Indent No : KUWSDB/2025-26 /WS /WORK_INDENT404)**, 2) Amount of Estimate: **Rs. 105.93 Lakhs (Excluding GST),** 3) Eligibility of Contractor: Eligible Contractors, 4) Details of Tender application amount and EMD amount: **Rs. 2,00,000/-**, 5) Period of Completion: 06 Months, 6) Date and Time for commencement of downloading of tender documents from thee-procurement portal: **24-09-2025 after 13:00 hours**, 7) Date & Time of Pre-Bid Meeting: **30-09-2025 at 11:30 hours**, 8) Last Date and Time for receipt of Tenders: **08-10-2025 upto 17:30 hours**, 9) Date and Time for Opening of Tender: **10-10-2025 after 11:00 hours**, 10) Addl. information: Office of the Chief Engineer, KUWS & D Board, Kalaburagi Zone, "Jalbhavan", Rajapur, Kusnoor Road, Telephone: 08472-220817, E-mail ID : kwbceklb14@gmail.com, 11) Address of E-portal: **www.kppp.karnataka.gov.in**

DIPR/Kalaburagi/538/KSMC&A/2025-26

Sd/- Chief Engineer KUWS & D Board, Kalaburagi Zone, Kalaburagi

BANGALORE AIRPORT HOTEL LIMITED

Name and Address of the entity seeking Proposal:
BANGALORE AIRPORT HOTEL LIMITED
Administration Block,
Kempegowda International Airport,
Bengaluru - 560 300
Web: www.bengaluruairport.com

NOTICE TO EXPRESSION OF INTEREST (EOI)

S.No.	Tender Title	Short description of Scope of Work
1	Guest Floors Interior (Fixed & loose furniture) works of 775 keys Combo Hotel Vivanta & Ginger	1. The Scope includes supply, fabrication and installation of Guest Floor Interiors comprising prefabricated Fixed Furniture, Loose Furniture, and Wall Panelling works etc. for hotel guest rooms, suites, service apartment and corridors. 2. The scope covers preparation of shop drawings works to execute as per approved design intent, material specifications, mock-up approvals, and project timelines, maintaining the highest standards of quality and workmanship expected for premium hospitality development.

Pre Qualification Criteria & other Inforamtion: Available on BIAL website (Tenders (bengaluruairport.com)). Reference No: **BAHL/CH/EOI/3502**
Submission Due Date & Time for all the above: 6th October 2025 at 20.00 Hours.
Note: Any further Addendums to this EOI shall be made available in BIAL website.
Applicants who are interested shall express their interest through E–Mail: ramesh.hegde@bialairport.com or register and login to BIAL E-Tendring website **(https://www.bialtenders.com) Event ID: 3502**
Name and address of the entity seeking RFQ:
Head – Procurement & Contracts
Bangalore Airport Hotel Limited.
Alpha 3A, Kempegowda International Airport,
Devanahalli, Bengaluru - 560 300
Email for communication: **ramesh.hegde@bialairport.com**
Phone No: 080 – 6678 2203
www.bengaluruairport.com

KARNATAKA SILK INDUSTRIES CORPORATION LTD.
(A Government of Karnataka Enterprise)
3rd & 4th Floors, Public Utility Building, M.G. Road, Bengaluru – 560 001
Ph: 080- 25586550/25586399 Email: info@ksicsilk.com

No.KSIC/INS/Stocks/01/2025-26 Date: 19.09.2025

SHORT TERM TENDER NOTIFICATION
(Through KPP Portal Only)

Karnataka Silk Industries Corporation Ltd is inviting short term online e-tender through KPP Portal of Government of Karnataka, under TWO COVER SYSTEM, from reputed General Insurers, licensed by IRDAI to operate General Insurance Business in India and who have completed at least 3 years in the Insurance Business and have been audited, for insurance coverage against Fire, Burglary, Money Insurance, Fidelity Guarantee, Employer's Liability, Group Personal Accident, Public Liability & All Risk Insurance, for a period from **24.10.2025 to 23.10.2026**

The interested Insurance Companies may participate by due registration in the KPP Portal of Government of Karnataka.

Tender Documents, details of the Notification, schedule terms & conditions can be downloaded from **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in** Last date and time for uploading the tender through KPP Portal is **08.10.2025 upto 3.00 P.M.** Pre-Bid Meeting : **26.09.2025 at 11:30 A.M.** The Technical bids will be opened on **09.10.2025 at 3.30 P.M.** Further details can be had from the office of the Undersigned during working hours or KPP Portal help desk -080-46010000, 080-22631200.

DIPR/CP/JA/2925/2025-26

Sd/-
GENERAL MANAGER(F&A)

KARNATAKA SKILL DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION (KSDC)
3rd Floor´ Koushalya Bhavana
Bannerghatta Road, Dairy Circle
Bangalore -560029, Phone No: 080-29522222
e-mail: kvt.iti@gmail.com & e-mail: eoi-rfp@kaushalkar.com

No: KSDC/ADM/OS-VEHICLE TENDER/CR-02/2025-26 Dated: 23.09.2025

E-TENDER NOTIFICATION

Karnataka Skill Development Corporation has invited the **"Hiring of Vehicles (Cars) Monthly Basis (One Year Contract)** Tender Two cover bid system as per Karnataka Transparency in Public Procurement Act-2000 through e-procurement portal. Bids are invited from the eligible bidders for **"Hiring of Vehicles (Cars) Monthly Basis (One Year Contract)** Tender Document Number: **KSDC/2025-26/SE0023** Tender Document is Available for download from: **23.09.2025** Last date for Proposal Submission: **04.10.2025.** The e-tender notification documents & tender processing fees. EMD details are available in e-procurement web portal-https://eproc.karanataka.gov.in Helpdesk– PhoneNo+91-8046010000 / +91-8068948777 or you may also contact the office during working hours.

Sd/- Tender Inviting Authority and Executive Director-2 KSDC, Bengaluru.

DIPR/CP/2948/AKAR/2025-26

Government of Karnataka
Department of Women and Child Development
Directorate of Child Protection, Bangalore
Office of District Child Protection Officer,
District Child Protection Unit, Belgaum Plot No.2688, Sector No.12 Double Road Srinagar Belgaum-590017.
E-mail ID: belgaumdcpo@gmail.com Ph.No:0831-2474111

No.: DCPU/BGM/Staff/E-Proc/Tender/2025-26 Date: 20-09-2025

NOTIFICATION For Manpower on Outsourcing Regarding procurement of human resource services on outsourcing basis through short term e-tender TENDER NOTIFICATION

District Child Protection Unit of Women and Child Development Department, Child Helpline -1098/112 Belgaum Center, Child Helpline -1098/112 Child Helpdesk Railway Station Belgaum, Child Helpline -1098/112 Tenders have been invited under the Karnataka Transparency in Public Procurement Act (KTPP) 1999 Rules 2000 for the provision of human resource services for a period of one year from an external agency at the Child Helpdesk, Chikkodi Bus Stand. Tender submission by the tender. EMD amount should be submitted through e-Portal.

Tender Notification for e-procurement
1) Tender announcement number and dateNo.: DCPU/BGM /Staff/E-Proc/Tender/2025-26 2) Estimated amount of the tender Rs.81.92 lakh 3) Starting date for uploading tender form Date:20.09.2025 4) Last date for uploading tender form20-09-2025 08-10-2025 5:30 PM 5) Place, time and date of opening of technical envelope District Child Protection Officer's Office, Plot No. 2688, Sector No. 12, Double Road, Srinagar Belgaum. Date: 10-10-2025 at 12.00 noon 6) Place, time and date of opening of financial envelope Office of the District Child Protection Officer, Women and Child Development Department, Srinagar, Belgaum Date: 13-10-2025 at 12.00 PM 7) EMD amount to be paid with tender Rs.1,64,000-00

For more information, check the website www.kppp.karnataka.gov.in and contact the District Child Protection Unit, Belgaum during office hours. Telephone number 0831-2474111. With regards,

Sd/- District Child Protection Officer, District Child Protection Unit, Belgaum

DIPR/BGM/RO-NO-1080/KSMCA/205-26

Manav Suthar

Suthar's five-for breaks Aus A momentum

LUCKNOW, PTI: Left-arm spinner Manav Suthar bagged five wickets to break the back of Australia A's batting, as India A restricted the visitors to 350 for nine on the opening day of their second four-day unofficial Test here on Tuesday.

Suthar bowled with precision to take wickets at regular intervals to return 28-4-93-5, while pacer Gurnoor Brar took 2 for 71 whereas India pacers Mohammed Siraj and Prasidh Krishna bagged one wicket apiece.

Dhruv Jurel led India A as Shreyas Iyer pulled out from this match, but Siraj and KL Rahul returned to action ahead of the two-Test series at home against the West Indies early next month. Siraj sent down 13 overs (1/73), while Prasidh was a little tighter with his lines in his 14 overs (1/63) which also included four maidens.

Brief scores: Australia A 350/9 in 84 overs (Sam Konstas 49, Nathan McSweeney 74, Jack Edwards 88, Oliver Peake 29, Josh Philippe 39, Todd Murphy 29 n.o.; Manav Suthar 5-93, Gurnoor Brar 2-71) vs India A.

IN BRIEF

USA Cricket's membership suspended

▸ The International Cricket Council (ICC) on Tuesday announced the suspension of USA Cricket's membership with immediate effect, saying the decision has been taken after a "thorough review of affairs and extensive engagement with key stakeholders over the past year", reports PTI from Dubai.

The decision comes in the build-up to cricket's return to Olympics calendar through Los Angeles Games 2028, as the ICC has allowed USA's national teams to participate in its competitions and prepare for the extravaganza.

India fined for slow over-rate

▸ The Indian women's cricket team was on Tuesday fined 10 per cent of its match fee for maintaining a slow over-rate against Australia in the third ODI, reports PTI from New Delhi.

Surrey sign Chahar

▸ Indian leg-spinner Rahul Chahar has been drafted into the Surrey squad for their season-ending fixture against Hampshire in the English County season, reports PTI from London.

Karthik named skipper

▸ Former India player Dinesh Karthik has been appointed captain of the country's team for the upcoming Hong Kong Sixes beginning November 7, reports PTI from Hong Kong.

◆ ON TV ◆

CRICKET

Asia Cup (Super 4s): India vs Bangladesh **(8 pm)**. **LIVE** on **Sony Ten 1**, **Sony Liv.**

FOOTBALL

Europa League: PAOK vs M Tel-Aviv **(10:15 pm)**; GNK Dinamo vs Fenerbahce, Real Betis vs Nottingham Forest, Crvena Zvezda vs Celtic, Nice vs Roma **(all 12:30 am, Thursday)**. **LIVE** on **Sony Sports Network.**

Carabao Cup: Barnsley vs Brighton, Wrexham vs Reading, Lincoln City vs Chelsea, Wolves vs Everton, Fulham vs Cambridge United **(all 12:15 am, Thursday)**; Liverpool vs Southampton **(12:30 am, Thursday)**. **LIVE** on **FanCode.**

CRICKET ASIA CUP

FORCE IS WITH dominant Indians

Bangladesh hope to snap their poor run against Men In Blue

R KAUSHIK
DUBAI

It took Bangladesh nine attempts to secure their first Twenty20 International victory over India; either side of that seven-wicket defeat in Delhi in November 2019, it's been India all the way.

An unambiguous 16-1 record, bolstered by three comprehensive triumphs last October at home, point to India's unquestioned hegemony. In the last faceoff, Suryakumar Yadav's marauding unit rattled up 297 for six in Hyderabad, their highest T20I total constructed around a blazing 111 from Sanju Samson.

It's against this backdrop that the teams will line up at the Dubai International Cricket Stadium on Wednesday in a battle of the unbeatens in the Super Fours of the T20 Asia Cup. Bangladesh made up for their Group B league defeat by overcoming Sri Lanka by four wickets on Saturday, 24 hours before India extended their dominance over Pakistan with a six-wicket rout.

India will be the first to concede that the 16-1 scoreline is somewhat flattering. Bangladesh have run them close numerous times without being able to deliver the knockout punch, not least in World Cup ties in Bengaluru (2016) and Adelaide (2022) when India's greater experience and their ability to hold their nerve under pressure stood them in good stead. Of course, who can forget Dinesh Karthik's last-ball six off Soumya Sarkar in the final of the Nidahas Trophy in Colombo in March 2018, an emphatic blow that overturned near-certain defeat into a famous addition to India's trophy cabinet?

Enduring an average Asia Cup campaign so far, Jasprit Bumrah and Varun Chakravarthy (above) will be looking to bounce back against Bangladesh on Wednesday. AFP

Personnel-wise, Bangladesh have moved on from the inglorious past. Litton Das does have the luxury of falling back on a few seasoned campaigners, among them Mustafizur Rahman, Taskin Ahmed and Mahedi Hasan, but there is a profusion of youth that doesn't carry the baggage of previous heartbreaks. Whether that alone will be enough to quell India's pedigreed firepower is another matter altogether.

The only unbeaten outfit of the tournament, India haven't been seriously challenged in their four preceding games. There is plenty of scope for improvement, however. Worry might be an exaggeration, but India will keep a serious eye on Jasprit Bumrah. In his first tryst with the 20-over game internationally since last year's World Cup, the celebrated paceman has been way below his best. His legendary control has been conspicuously absent, and he has been unable to respond swiftly or decisively when batters have taken him on, like opener Sahibzada Farhan did in both the showdowns against Pakistan.

Bumrah has taken a mere three wickets from 11 overs, nine of them in the Powerplay, but more damagingly, he has gone for 8.36 runs per over. On Sunday, his first three overs yielded 34, the most runs he has conceded in the Powerplay in representative 20-over cricket. Apart from the yorker that accounted for UAE opener Alishan Sharafu, the man with a history of unforgettable deliveries has hardly produced one of those. With the tournament hurtling towards a climax, India need Bumrah to be at his penetrative best, especially with the new ball because then, it will make the job of the three-pronged spin attack that bit easier.

Like Bumrah, Varun Chakravarthy too will be on the lookout for wickets. The No. 1 T20I bowler's two successes have come at a strike-rate of 30 and even though he has been supremely economical (5.30 runs per over), he has made a name for himself as a wicket-taking force in the middle overs alongside Kuldeep Yadav. The batters have hogged the limelight, as they invariably do in T20s, but it's on Bumrah and Chakravarthy that most eyeballs will be trained, come Wednesday.

Dominant India

LIVE 8 PM SONY SPORTS NETWORK

India v Bangladesh in T20Is

RECORD SINCE 2024

India		Bangladesh
35	Mats	43
32	Won	22
3	Lost	20
0	No Res	1
91.4%	Win%	51.2%

India's highest win% against a team

Vs	Win%	Mats	Wins
Ireland	100.0%	8	8
Bangladesh	94.1%	17	16
Afghanistan	88.9%	9	8
Pakistan	80.0%	15	12
Zimbabwe	76.9%	13	10

CAPTAINCY RECORD

	M	W	L	Win%	No Res
Suryakumar Yadav	26	22	4	84.6	
Litton Das	23	13	9	56.5	1

COMPILED BY ARUN GOPALAKRISHAN

Pakistan weave a tough win against Lanka

ABU DHABI, PTI: Pakistan huffed and puffed but defeated Sri Lanka by five wickets in a low-scoring Asia Cup Super Fours contest here on Tuesday.

Chasing an under-par target of 134, Pakistan first raced to 45 for no loss in five overs only to slump to 80 for five in the next seven overs. Hussain Talat (32 not out) and Mohammad Nawaz (38 not out) then took them over the line.

Pakistan won with two overs to spare.

Earlier, Pakistan pacers put the Sri Lankan batters through the wringer despite Kamindu Mendis' fine fifty, restricting them for a vastly under-par 133 for eight.

Sent into bat, Sri Lanka made a woeful start, losing in-form Kusal Mendis in the second ball, and an over later Pathum Nissanka, their most consistent batter in the tournament, too walked back. Sri Lanka never really recovered from those early strikes.

On a night that offered plenty of seam movement to pacers, Shaheen Shah Afridi (3/28) made the first strike, eliciting an uppish flick from Mendis that ended with Hussain Talat. Nissanka smashed Afridi for a maximum but edged the very next ball to wicketkeeper Mohammad Haris as Sri Lanka slipped to 18 for two.

But skipper Charith Asalanka and Kusal Perera effected a mini recovery through a 25-run alliance for the third wicket.

Brief scores: Sri Lanka: 133/8 in 20 overs (Kamindu Mendis 50; Shaheen Afridi 3-28, Haris Rauf 2-37, Hussain Talat 2-18) lt to Pakistan: 138/5 in 18 overs (Hussain Talat 32 n.o., Mohammad Nawaz 38 n.o.; Maheesh Theekshana 2-24, Wanindu Hasaranga 2-27). **Result:** Pakistan won by 5 wkts. **PoM:** Hussain Talat.

Hussain Talat

Ahlawat spins Secretary's XI revival against Goa

BENGALURU, DHNS

Abhishek Ahlawat sparked KSCA Secretary's XI fightback on Day 3 of the Dr (Capt) K Thimmappiah memorial tournament semifinals as the 27-year-old off-spinner took 4-34 to trigger Goa's batting collapse in the second innings.

The visitors started their latest innings with a 62-run lead after bundling out Secretary's XI for 276, but soon found themselves struggling at 128/8 by the final session of the day. Goa's innings would have ended before stumps if not for the ninth-wicket stand of 40 runs between Arjun Tendulkar (25 not out) and Samar Dubashi (14 n.o.).

Madhav Bajaj (2-51) and Dhruv P (2-22) backed Ahlawat from the other end as well with a couple of wickets each. Goa were 168/8 at stumps, holding a lead of 230 runs.

Earlier in the morning, Kruthik Krishna couldn't score a hundred after resuming from his overnight knock of 89. He fell for 95 to V Koushik while Secretary's XI could only add 14 runs to their Day 2 total.

KSCA Secretary XI's Abhishek Ahlawat bagged a four-wicket haul against Goa in the Dr (Capt) K Thimmappiah memorial tournament. DH PHOTO/ KRISHNA KUMAR P S

Meanwhile, at the M Chinnaswamy Stadium here, Madhya Pradesh opened up a sizeable lead of 454 runs in their second innings as opener Harsh Gawli played a knock of 121 n.o. to take their second innings total to 233/1 at stumps. First innings centurion Yash Dubey (76) missed out on another ton while he forged a 168-run stand with Gawli.

Brief scores (semifinals): At Alur 1: Goa: 338 all out & 168/8 in 73 overs (Lalit Yadav 27, Arjun Tendulkar 25 n.o.; Abhishek Ahlawat 4-34, Madhav P Bajaj 2-51, Dhruv P 2-22) vs KSCA Secretary's XI: (O/n: 245/8): 276 all out in 97.1 overs (Lochan Gowda 88, Faizan Khan 29, Kruthik Krishna 95; Arjun Tendulkar 3-54, Vasuki Koushik 2-32, Mohit Redkar 2-74).

At M Chinnaswamy Stadium: Madhya Pradesh: 425 all out & 233/1 in 66 overs (Harsh Gawli 121 n.o., Yash Dubey 76, Venkatesh Iyer 27 n.o.) vs Himachal Pradesh: (O/n: 106/6): 204 all out in 57.2 overs (Siddhant Purohit 43, Ankit Kalsi 38, Akash Vashisht 49, Mayank Dagar 27; Kumar Kartikeya 6-54, Aryan Pandey 2-36, Adheer Pratap Singh 2-27).

KSCA makes public State selection panels

BENGALURU, DHNS: The Karnataka State Cricket Association has made public the various selection committees although the members of these panels have been discharging their duties for the last three months.

The senior selection committee is headed by former Karnataka Ranji Trophy player Anand Katti with fellow former players C Raghu, Amit Verma and Tejpal Kothari.

The last two replace NC Aiyappa and KL Aswath who were in the previous committee. Aswath will now head men's under-23 panel which has Verma, Suneel Raju and S Prakash as its other members.

Selection committees: Senior (men): Anand Katti (chairman), C Raghu, Amit Verma and Tejpal Kothari.
Under-23 (men): KL Aswath (chairman), Amit Verma, Suneel Raju, S Prakash.
Junior (U-19, 14 & 14 men and boys): Ramesh Rao P (chairman), MV Prashanth, Udit Patel, KM Aiyappa and Raghuttam Navali.
Senior & Under-23 (women): Sunitha Ananthakrishnan (chairperson), Aruna Reddy, Nivedita Reshme and Mukta Algeri.
Junior women (U-19, 15): Sharmila Siddodhanam (chairperson), Ranjini Kumar and Saba Siddique.

Pandey left out of Ranji probables; Nair, Srinivas back

BENGALURU, DHNS: In what can be called as the final nail in the coffin, Manish Pandey **(in pic)** was left out of the 37-member Ranji Trophy probables for the 2025-26 season on Tuesday.

Pandey, who was dropped mid-way through last season's Ranji Trophy campaign by the then selection committee headed by J Abhiram chose to look into the future, was also ignored by the new panel headed by former spinner Anand Katti.

Pandey, part of an all-conquering Karnataka side that won an unprecedented double-treble 2013-14 and 2014-15, last played for the State in the Ranji Trophy group game against Uttar Pradesh in November 2024.

As expected, Karun Nair returned to the fold after quitting Vidarbha following a successful two-year spell with the central zone side. Wicketkeeper Sharath Srinivas, who turned up for minnows Tripura last season, has also been named in the probables' list.

Yere Goud will remain as the coach, along with bowling coach Mansur Ali Khan.

KSCA also announced a 31-member probables list for Col CK Nayudu and a 46-member list for Vinoo Mankad Trophy. The senior women's T20 probables team features 30 names.

Ranji Trophy probables: Mayank Agarwal, KL Rahul, Karun Nair, Devdutt Padikkal, R Smaran, Shrijith KL (WK), Aneesh KV, Abhinav Manohar, Nikin Jose SJ, Prasidh Krishna, Vyshak V, Vidwath Kaverappa, Shreyas Gopal, Macneil H Noronha, Vidyadhar Patil, Kruthik Krishna (WK), Hardik Raj, Shikhar Shetty, Mohsin Khan, Abhilash Shetty, Paras Gurbax Arya, Shashikumar K, Venkatesh M, Yashovardhan Parantap, Samarth Nagaraj, Madhav P Bajaj, Shreesha S Achar, Abhishek Ahlawat, Sharath Srinivas (WK), Kishan S Bedare, Manvanth Kumar L, Karthikeya KP, Monish Reddy, Shubhang Hegde, Adhoksh Hegde, Kumar LR, Sharath BR (WK). **Coach:** Yere Goud; **Bowling coach:** Mansur Ali Khan; **Fielding coach:** Shabarish P Mohan; Manager: A Ramesh Rao; **Physiotherapist:** Abhishek Kulkarni; **Strength & conditioning coach:** Irfanulla Khan; **Masseur:** Somasundar CM; **Video analyst:** Giri Prasad.
Coaching staff: Col CK Nayudu Trophy: Coach: Somashekar Shiraguppi; **Assistant coach:** SR Deepu; **Strength & conditioning coach:** Kiran A; **Physiotherapist:** Vijay Mudgal. **Vinoo Mankad Trophy: Coach:** KB Pawan; **Bowling coach:** SL Akshay; **Manager:** SA Satish; **Performance analyst:** Rajeev P. **Senior women's T20 trophy: Coach:** Karuna Jain; **Manager:** Sunitha Ananthakrishnan; **Physiotherapist:** Padmavani; **Strength & conditioning coach:** Kirti S.

Lalkrawsmawia brace powers Kodagu

BENGALURU, DHNS: Lalkrawsmawia scored a first-half brace as Kodagu FC blanked FC Real Bengaluru 3-0 in the KSFA Super Division League Championship at the Bangalore Football Stadium here on Tuesday.

LOCAL FOOTBALL

Lalkrawsmawia opened his account in the 14th minute before doubling his and Kodagu's tally a minute before the half-hour mark. Aditya Pratap Singh Rathore then capped off a resounding win for Kodagu with a 61st-minute goal.

In the day's other game, last season's runners-up Kickstart FC scored a facile 3-1 win over MFAR Students Union FC.

Results: Kickstart FC: 3 (S Johny Kom 15th, Ngairangbam Rakesh Singh 28th, V Vignesh 76th) bt MFAR Students Union FC: 1 (Muhammed Jaseem AP 90+4); Sporting Club Bengaluru: 2 (Jomon Jacob 13th, Ishaan Raghunandan 66th) bt Bangalore City FC: 0; Kodagu FC: 3 (Lalkrawsmawia 14th, 29th, Aditya Pratap Singh Rathore 61st) bt FC Real Bengaluru: 0.

Sporting Club Bengaluru's Ishaan Raghunanda (right) celebrates after scoring against Bangalore City FC on Tuesday.
DH PHOTO/ BK JANARDHAN

Gavaskar hails Bird as 'unique'

NEW DELHI, PTI: The legendary Sunil Gavaskar **(in pic)** on Tuesday condoled the death of renowned umpire Harold 'Dickie' Bird, saying the Englishman was a "unique character", who understood the "tensions and pressures" of the players.

Bird, 92, breathed his last at his home in Yorkshire, and had officiated in 66 Tests and 69 ODIs during a career that spanned from 1973 to 1996.

"That was a sad news indeed. Having played the game at the first-class level Dickie knew the tensions and pressures the players undergo and so was sympathetic to their frustrations if his decisions didn't go their way," Gavaskar said.

The former Indian skipper said the sport has lost a "unique character."

"The players loved him because he was always ready to chat between overs and sometimes between deliveries too. Cricket has lost a unique character and a superb umpire. May his soul rest in peace," said the legendary Gavaskar.

Bird too had held Gavaskar in high esteem, rating him as the batsman with the best technique.

DICKIE BIRD (1933-2025)

Idiosyncratic umpire admired across generations

LONDON, PTI

Renowned and much-adored umpire Harold "Dickie" Bird died at the age of 92.

Bird officiated in 66 Tests and 69 ODIs in a long career spanning between 1973 and 1996.

In fact, Bird's last Test was the 1996 Lord's Test between India and England in which former skippers Rahul Dravid and Sourav Ganguly made their debut in the traditional format.

"It is with profound sadness that The Yorkshire County Cricket Club announces the passing of Harold Dennis "Dickie" Bird MBE OBE, one of cricket's most beloved figures, who died peacefully at home at the age of 92," the county club said in a statement.

Dickie Bird

"He leaves behind a legacy of sportsmanship, humility, and joy -- and a legion of admirers across generations," Yorkshire added. Bird had a long association with Yorkshire, starting his first-class career with the county in 1956, and before ending his career in 1964, Bird made 3,314 runs from 93 matches with two hundreds. "The thoughts of everyone at the Yorkshire County Cricket Club are with Dickie's family and friends during this time.

Bird was appointed an MBE in 1986 and an OBE in 2012 in recognition of his outstanding contribution to cricket, and formed a famous on-field alliance with countryman late David Shepherd, who died in 2009.

Bird was also a favourite with the spectators and the players alike for the accuracy of his decisions and idiosyncrasies which included arriving at the match venue as early as 6 am.

During a 1974 Test match at Old Trafford against England, Indian legend Sunil Gavaskar got a haircut from Bird because his hair kept getting into his eyes. The Englishman used a pair of scissors he kept to cut threads from the ball's seam to trim Gavaskar's hair mid-match.

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